



2011 Timber Release Plans Community Consultation Process

What is a Timber Release Plan (TRP)?

A TRP is an administrative plan showing all VicForests' proposed harvesting activities for a period of up to five years. These plans outline where future harvesting operations may occur.

The Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004 requires VicForests TRPs to feature specific information including:

- ~ A schedule of coupes (areas) selected for timber harvesting and associated access road requirements
- ~ The location and approximate timing of timber harvesting in the proposed coupes
- ~ The location of any associated access roads
- ~ Any other relevant information

While a TRP contains much more than this, in its simplest form, a TRP is a map with coupe numbers and harvest years.

Why is VicForests changing its TRPs?

In 2011, VicForests is developing a new TRP for the Benalla-Mansfield, Central, Central Gippsland and Dandenong Forest Management Areas. An amendment of the TRP for East Gippsland Tambo and North-East Forest Management Areas is also taking place.

VicForests is changing its current TRPs in order to:

- ~ Replace the current Central Highlands TRP 2006 to 2011, which expires at the end of June.
- ~ Allow for the inclusion of additional coupes, driveways and boundary modifications on existing TRPs, in order to further improve current planning information.

Does this mean that more area will be harvested?

No, any areas added or modified during this process DO NOT allow an increase to VicForests' total annual harvest level, which remains at around 5,500 hectares (ha) per annum.

A new TRP, and any amendments, must be in line with the Allocation Order that specifies how much area by forest type VicForests is allowed to harvest.

What is the role of VicForests and DSE in the process?

At the completion of the public consultation period, community feedback will be considered prior to the TRP plans being finalised and submitted to DSE for review and approval. All community feedback will also be provided to DSE, to be considered as a part of the approval process.

Along with consideration of the feedback from the community consultation process, DSE must ensure all plans comply with the regulatory framework for sustainable forest management in Victoria. The framework takes into consideration environmental, social and economic factors and includes relevant laws, the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2007, Forest Management Plans and Flora and Fauna Action Statements.

Prior to submission to DSE, VicForests also submits the TRPs to Aboriginal Affairs Victoria for review, to ensure Indigenous cultural values, where appropriate, have been recognised.

Community Consultation Process

VicForests welcomes the input from stakeholders and the community into our TRP planning process. To enable this input VicForests advertises proposed Timber Release Plans and invites comment.

What is considered in the consultation process?

VicForests is seeking comments specifically relating to the impact of proposed individual coupes (harvesting areas) on the community.

Potential areas for discussion/clarification include:

- ~ The timing of harvesting operations
- ~ Haulage/transportation concerns
- ~ Harvesting adjacent to private property
- ~ Concerns regarding application of coupe-level prescriptions

NOTE: Comments regarding Forest Management Plans, the Code of Forestry Practices for Timber Production, Regional Forest Agreements or other statements relating to the feasibility of native harvesting, are outside the scope of this consultation process. These comments will be forwarded to the Secretary of DSE. DSE is VicForests' regulator and responsible for overall forest management and policy development.

I am opposed to all native harvesting. How do I voice my objections?

The aim of this community feedback process is to obtain feedback on specific coupe-related operational issues.

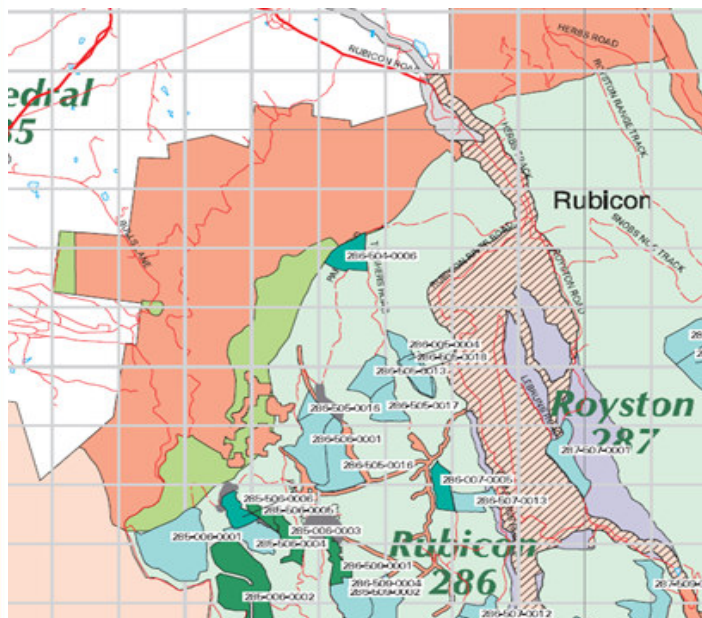
VicForests will forward your general concerns to the Secretary of DSE, who is responsible for the regulation of forest management in Victoria.

Where can I find the specific maps of proposed harvesting areas?

All proposed TRP information is on display on the VicForests website between 9th March and 6th April, 2011. Proposed TRPs will be displayed in both map and table format.

The TRP maps display:

- ~ The area of a coupe within which harvesting may take place
- ~ Areas for which coupe driveways and appropriate access can be constructed
- ~ Forest management zones, major roads, including forest roads, and towns



NOTE: Maps are displayed by forest management district. Therefore, it is important to consider all maps, particularly where your area of interest may border a number of districts.

The TRP tables display:

- ~ The coupe number (forest block, compartment and coupe reference) and district
- ~ The Gross area of the coupe, which is the area within which VicForests will have harvesting approval
- ~ The estimated net area, which is the area that VicForests estimate it will harvest within the gross area
- ~ The silviculture system, which includes clearfelling, seedtree, thinning and roading
- ~ Stand description, which is the predominant stand type of either Ash or Mixed Species

Coupe Address	District	Gross Coupe Area (ha)	Estimated Net Harvest Area (ha)	Roadline (km)	Silviculture System	Stand Description
848-503-0001	Cann River	38.6	36.3	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
848-503-0002	Cann River	29.9	29.0	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
848-503-0003	Cann River	36.3	36.3	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
848-503-0004	Cann River	23.8	23.8	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
848-503-0007	Cann River	0.6	0.6	0.2	Road alignment - improvement	Mixed species
848-504-0001	Cann River	28.9	28.0	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
848-504-0002	Cann River	43.2	24.0	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
849-501-0008	Cann River	30.8	31.0	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
849-501-0010	Cann River	32.7	33.0	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
849-501-0013	Cann River	44.1	36.0	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
849-502-0004	Cann River	18.4	18.0	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
849-502-0011	Cann River	30.4	30.4	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species
849-502-0015	Cann River	46.9	29.3	0.0	Seed Tree (includes retained overwood)	Mixed species

What will happen to my feedback?

If you have specific feedback about VicForests' planned operations you will be contacted by a VicForests representative to discuss your concerns.

What happens once approval has been obtained?

Once the TRP has been approved VicForests is able to undertake any of the operations contained within that plan. Prior to commencement of an operation a detailed Forest Coupe Plan must be prepared. The Forest Coupe Plan is a specific operational document under which a harvesting contractor must operate. It outlines all management actions that were specified as a component of the TRP approval process.