



Sale of Commercial and Domestic Firewood in Victoria

Firewood is produced from Victoria's state forests by domestic and commercial operations. Domestic operations involve cutting firewood in the forests for personal use.

Those wanting to collect firewood from State forests are required to hold a permit issued by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). Contacts for regional DSE offices are available on the DSE website.

Commercial operations in parts of eastern Victoria are managed by VicForests and involve the delivery of firewood logs to nominated delivery points. Auctions are generally held when supply or demand requires.

Commercial operations in the western part of Victoria are managed by DSE.

Commercial Firewood Log Sales in Eastern Victoria

Auctions

Open auctions for the purchase of firewood logs are held by VicForests intermittently, depending on demand and availability of raw material. During these auctions, qualified bidders are able to submit bids on lots for varying length, up to 3-5 years.

Once awarded, VicForests will arrange to deliver the firewood logs to the successful bidder's yard. These merchants process the logs into firewood for public sale.

Auctions may be advertised in major metropolitan and regional newspapers but are always promoted on the VicForests website once scheduled. Auction packs can be downloaded from the VicForests website prior to an Auction.

Qualifying

Buyers must meet minimum auction requirements to be eligible to bid for firewood logs. In order to qualify for an auction a potential bidder must satisfy the following:

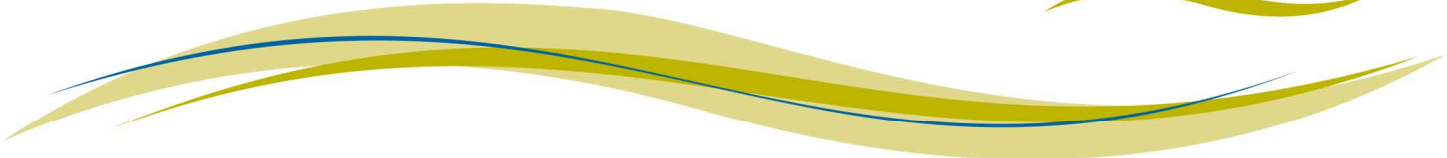
- ~ Have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- ~ Have an OH&S management system that complies with OH&S legislation including the OH&S Act 2004 and the OH&S Regulations 2007. This includes a safe unloading area, satisfactorily maintained unloading equipment and accredited machine operators
- ~ Accept VicForests' Auction Rules and Terms and Conditions for Timber Sales
- ~ Meet any financial security requirements

Species

All firewood logs are produced by VicForests' contractors as a by-product of normal harvesting operations. For this reason, species and areas are restricted to those which are available to VicForests for commercial harvesting.

For the Central Highlands these species include: Alpine Ash, Mountain Ash and Messmate, while further east, species include Alpine Ash, Mountain Ash, Shinning gum, Messmate, Silvertop Ash, Grey gum, Cut-tail and Stringybark species.

Small quantities of Box and Ironbark may be available on an irregular basis in Gippsland, however most of the small amount that VicForests harvests is sold for high value specialty timbers and craftwood.



VicForests' harvesting operations are restricted to the eastern part of Victoria. They do not cover the Mallee, Murray or western districts and therefore can't produce red gum or other commercial firewood species.

Quality and quantity

Generally, firewood logs are auctioned in Lots ranging in size from 60 tonnes (2 log truck loads) to 500 tonnes over a range of 1-5 years. This allows smaller and larger businesses a security of supply. Product specifications are detailed in documents available at the time of the auction and details are provided of log length, species and seasonality. Firewood logs are generally sold green rather than dry. Merchants should plan to allow time for the timber to air dry.

Price

Delivered price for firewood logs typically vary from \$50 to \$70 per tonne, depending on haulage distances. VicForests' harvesting operations are restricted to areas and forest types that the State Government permits VicForests to operate in.

Firewood Lots may not be available in some areas of eastern Victoria.

Domestic firewood

VicForests is not permitted to undertake domestic firewood collection.

The collection and removal of firewood for domestic use requires a licence or permit issued by DSE or an agent acting on behalf of DSE. For further information on domestic firewood licences and permits see the DSE website or contact your local DSE office.

Contacts

VicForests

(03) 9608 9500

Email: vfs.auctions@vicforests.com.au

www.vicforests.com.au

Domestic Firewood

Contact your local DSE office or check their website www.dse.vic.gov.au

Firewood Association of Australia

www.firewood.asn.au

