

A photograph of a forest landscape with tall trees and green foliage, partially obscured by a green geometric shape in the top right corner.

06 February 2020

Private plantation koala deaths - VicForests responds

VicForests stresses that it has no connection to the operation where koalas were tragically killed at a private property in the southwest of Victoria recently.

VicForests would also like to address an instance of the death of one koala two-and-a-half-years ago in a VicForests coupe (Mont Blanc – 309-507-0001).

This was an incident of deep concern to VicForests.

Neither VicForests, nor its employees or contractors, were found to have acted in breach of any relevant regulations or requirements.

This was confirmed in an extensive investigation by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

It was unusual for the koala to be in the Mont Blanc coupe, which comprised of mixed species trees that are not typical Koala habitat.

There were no known koala communities in the area, and the koala was not sighted during initial surveys. This was the only such occurrence for VicForests.

Despite the unusual presence of the koala, and that there was no breach of regulations, VicForests proactively implemented corrective and preventative actions to its Koala Management Instructions.

These extra measures continue.

VicForests stresses that it operates under extensive and rigorous array of regulations, overseen independently of VicForests by the Office of the Conservation Regulator.

These controls ensure protection and conservation of species and habitats. Please see the [Code of Practice for Timber Production](#), [Management Standards and Procedures](#) and [Planning Standards](#) for timber harvesting operations documents for more information.

VicForests feels the impact of the deaths of the koalas on this private property as any Australian would, and is assiduous in meeting its responsibility to conserve Australia's unique biodiversity.

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