

20 November 2019

VicForests strongly rejects allegations about harvesting on slopes

VicForests today said that its harvesting in water catchment areas complies with relevant regulations, including complying with slope limits.

CEO Monique Dawson said the Code for Timber Production allowed harvesting on slopes in water catchments, provided no more than 10% of a coupe's harvestable area exceeded the slope limit.

"We have complied with this rule," said Ms Dawson.

"We determine slopes by using the latest LiDar (light detection and ranging) technology, which has almost 30 times better resolution than the methods cited in recent media reports."

Any concerns about our practices should be referred to the Office of the Conservation Regulator, which is the responsible authority for determining allegations of a Code breach.

Ms Dawson said VicForests did very little harvesting in catchments, where restrictions are in place.

In the Thompson catchment, VicForests only harvests on average 150ha a year out of about 44,000ha in the catchment – which is 0.3%, or around 3 trees in 1000.

Ms Dawson said VicForests only asks contractors to harvest on slopes if it complies with regulation.

ENDS