

Forest Management Policy

VicForests is committed to building environmental systems that sustain strong our unique Victorian biodiversity.

VicForests defines Sustainable Forest Management as:

Active forest management that integrates timber production with intrinsic, environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits to ensure that all these values are maintained for current and future generations.

Our Forest Management Policy is underpinned by our desire to continually evolve and adapt our practices to enhance the environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits these forests provide to society.

We are committed to ensuring the forests vested in our care are managed to the highest possible standards to support the range of interests and rights of all stakeholders.

This Policy is embedded in our Forest Management Plan and is reviewed annually.

Our Commitment

High Conservation Values: assessing and protecting high conservation values with consideration to the scale, intensity and risk of our operations.

Regulatory compliance: maintaining systems that support Government legislation and policy and are compatible with the Australian Forestry Standard (AS 4708) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Principles and Criteria.

Science-based decision making: engaging in credible and relevant research to understand ecosystem condition to help inform and improve forest management practices.

Long-term economic development: delivering sustainably-sourced, renewable products that support local economies and employment.

Social and environmental services: being an active contributor to rural and regional communities.

Landscape-scale resource planning: maintaining or enhancing the productive capacity of the forest resource with consideration of all forest values.

Adaptive practices: continuously improving harvesting practices and systems with consideration to new scientific information and stakeholder feedback.

Re-growing forests: regrowing all harvested forest in accordance with natural forest management principles.

Cultural heritage: respecting native title rights, traditional uses, customary tenures and historic fabric, and continually improving our strategies for managing cultural heritage.

Stakeholder involvement: providing opportunities to engage and submit feedback on our forest management planning and operations.

Transparency: building respect and understanding with our stakeholders through clear public reporting and access to relevant information.