

VicForests On Bushfire Recovery Timber Harvesting

The 2019-20 bushfires affected 1.6 million hectares across Victoria, mostly in the East Gippsland and the North East areas.

VicForests has developed a bushfire recovery timber harvesting program and sustainably harvest a very small part of burnt areas.

This allows VicForests to harvest severely fire-affected timber before it becomes unsuitable for processing by our customers.

VicForests will harvest up to 3,500 hectares over several years in areas already allocated to it for harvesting in the fire-affected 1.6 million hectares – equivalent to 2-3 trees out of 1000.

This harvesting will offset harvest levels in unburnt areas of the forest.

There will be no harvesting in National Parks or reserves.

VicForests will not harvest unburnt areas within the fire footprint in 2020.

The decision to do recovery harvesting was made by VicForests using the best information available.

This included an assessment of threatened species conducted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

VicForests has also considered landscape wide planning and the protection of high conservation values.

VicForests will retain all unburnt trees and maintain corridors to the forest outside of the harvest areas.

The Office of the Conservation Regulator has been consulted while developing the timber recovery program and it monitors the standards and protections used in harvesting.

VicForests' bushfire recovery timber harvesting effort is critical to local jobs.

This is especially important considering the COVID-19 crisis impacts on jobs.

Bushfire recovery timber harvesting documents are available on VicForests' website.

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