

# Letter to the editor

19 September 2017

VicForests letter to the editor sent to The Age and printed 20/09/2017 titled [‘The root causes’](#)

In response to letter titled ‘Trouble at mill’ (18.09.2017), VicForests would like to clarify that the reduction in timber to be supplied to the Heyfield mill is a result of an increase in conservation reserves in the forest and not as a result of over-harvesting or a decrease in trees.

The creation of conservation reserves means that there is a lower volume of timber that can be sustainably harvested from the areas that remain available.

As an industry we are constantly adapting to an ever changing environment in order to achieve the best possible outcome that balances the demand for regional jobs and sustainable local timber with community concerns and environmental conservation.

As recently described at a community meeting and in the media, the timber from the forests near Mirboo North are of a different species mix to that supplied to the Heyfield Mill. Therefore there is no connection between these two issues.

VicForests is pleased to see a resolution to the sale of the Heyfield mill which comes after a very difficult time for both the community and the timber industry as a whole.

Kind regards,

Lachlan Spencer

VicForests, General Manager Stakeholders & Planning