

VicForests

Information Package on the Proposed Change to Timber Release Plan

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The VicForests logo consists of the word "VicForests" in a bold, sans-serif font. "Vic" is in white and "Forests" is in yellow, both set against a blue rectangular background. Below the text is a stylized green and yellow wave graphic.

Timber Release Plan

VicForests has prepared a Timber Release Plan as contemplated in Part 5 of the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004 (Vic) (the SFT Act).

Section 37 of the SFT Act requires VicForests to prepare a plan in respect of an area to which an Allocation Order applies for the purposes of:

- (a) harvesting and selling, or harvesting or selling, timber resources; and
- (b) undertaking associated management activities in relation to those timber resources.

With respect to Section 43 of the SFT Act, VicForests is permitted to review and change the Timber Release Plan at any time if the change is not inconsistent with:

- (a) the allocation order to which the plan relates, including any condition, limitation, matter or specification in the order; and
- (b) any relevant Code of Practice relating to timber harvesting.

Specified conditions

VicForests recognises that all planning and operations of VicForests must:

- (a) comply with all relevant laws including, but not limited to:
 - i. the Forests Act 1958 (Vic);
 - ii. the Conservation, Forests and Land Act 1987 (Vic);
 - iii. the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic);
 - iv. the Road Management Act 2004 (Vic); and
 - v. the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic); and
- (b) comply with all conditions, requirements and limitations in the Allocation Order 2019 as amended.

The Allocation (Amendment) Order 2019

The objectives of this Order are –

- a. to allocate specified timber in State forests to VicForests for the purposes of harvesting and selling, or harvesting or selling, timber resources;
- b. to permit VicForests to undertake associated management activities in relation to that allocated timber;
- c. to specify the conditions and limitations that apply under this Order.

The Proposed Changes

In response to last Summer's bushfires VicForests has developed a bushfire recovery timber harvesting program to responsibly and sustainably harvest a very small part of the fire affected area. This allows VicForests to harvest severely fire affected timber before it becomes unsuitable for processing by our customers.

The proposed coupes have all been impacted by high severity fire and contained areas of fire killed Ash forest. These areas, if harvested, will be done so in compliance with the fire salvage harvesting requirements contained within the Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria's State forests (2014) (MSPs) as well as VicForests recently developed procedures. These procedures can be viewed on VicForests website.

The proposed changes are necessary to:

- Implement the bushfire recovery timber harvesting program.

Additional TRP information

TRP coupes are mapped to natural features and may contain areas that are not covered by the Allocation Order spatial layer but are available for harvesting operations. Operations in these areas are not authorised by the Allocation Order. If operations are planned in these areas the appropriate authorisations will be sought:

- In State Forests a Forest Produce Licence may be granted under the Forests Act 1958.
- For operations to occur in Special Protection Zone an exemption from the Management Standards and Procedures is required.
- For roadworks in Parks Victoria managed land the works must be consistent with the park management plan and an agreement is required. If the works are not consistent with the park management plan then the Minister must be satisfied that the works will not substantially affect the park.

Inclusion of a coupe on the TRP does not indicate it will be harvested. A coupe may be removed from the TRP unharvested. Reasons for this may include, the consideration of all available information during planning or changing regulatory requirements.

VicForests will not be harvesting old growth forest.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) maintain a spatial layer based on modelled old growth (MOG), not field surveyed and identified old growth forests, and is indicative only. The DELWP will continue to update mapped old growth models using LiDAR Data.

VicForests will exclude areas identified as old growth forest through field surveys and protect these stands from harvesting.

No coupes are proposed for harvesting in Immediate Protection Areas.

In planning and conducting timber harvesting operations, VicForests will comply with the conservation measures and actions in the Greater Glider Action Statement.

Adaptive forest management practices may appear as multiple combinations of in-coupe retention and silviculture methods based on the presence, extent, and respective management requirements of High Conservation Values

Public Consultation

Timber Release Plan amendments are an important part of our routine planning process, and provide us with greater scope to implement our new adaptive forest management practices. VicForests rely on sophisticated planning and surveying techniques, but also welcome public input throughout the planning process. All available information is used to make planning decisions within the context of a changing environment, improving technology, and changing rules and regulations which govern what we do.

The objective of this Proposed TRP Change Document is to provide stakeholders the details of available areas, including location and approximate timing of all proposed timber harvesting, access requirements, seed collection operations, and their associated management activities. This information provides stakeholders with the first opportunity to provide feedback on a specific coupe area. Further information, including maps, is available on VicForests website.



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Glossary

VicForests Timber Release Plan *Harvesting, Roding and Associated Activities.*

Coupe – A contiguous area of forest of variable size, shape and orientations from which timber is harvested or a roadline is constructed or improved.

Coupe Address – A unique 10-digit reference number that indicates the location of an individual coupe or roadline.

Driveway / Coupe Driveway - An area between an existing permanent road and the coupe boundary within which a coupe-access road of up to 500m in length may be constructed. The coupe driveway is spatially represented by a separate polygon that is up to 500 metres long and 500m wide and has the same coupe address as the coupe it will access.

Approximate Net - The approximate net area estimated for harvested within the coupe boundary and current requirements. It is the gross coupe area minus any areas that may be excluded from harvesting due to such factors as Code exclusions, Merchantability and retained habitat areas.

Forest Stand – Describes the dominant forest type for each particular coupe, (either Mixed Species, or Ash).

Gross Area/ Coupe Boundary - The area within which any individual harvesting or roadline coupe's operations will be conducted. It is represented spatially and approved for inclusion on a Timber Release Plan.

Roads/Roadline – A spatially separate 'coupe boundary' with its own coupe address typically more than 500m in length:

- a) Road Improvement works (RDI), including minor adjustments to existing roads and tracks of the forest access network to ensure safe heavy vehicle access to coupe.
- b) Road Construction works (RDC), where new forest roads are established to ensure safe heavy vehicle access to coupe or major adjustments to existing roads.

Road Length – The measured road that links a permanent road to a coupe. Coupe-access roads less than 500 metres long are considered to be 'coupe driveways'. A coupe access road longer than 500 metres is considered to be a 'roadline' coupe

Silviculture Intent – Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery: Is harvesting of fire killed Ash stands. Multiple harvest methods may be employed within a single coupe boundary, boundaries of which will be reflective of regeneration, habitat retention and sensitive value requirements, including threatened species protections.

Timber Release Plan / TRP – A Timber Release Plan is a list of areas and corresponding maps, outlining where timber harvesting, regenerating and road works are authorised to be completed by VicForests.

**VicForests Proposed Changes to Timber Release Plan
TRP Schedule**

Region	Forest Management Area	District	Coupe Address	Coupe Name	TRP Type	Scheduled Year of Harvest	Silvicultural Intent	In Coupe Gross Area (ha)	In Coupe Approximate Net Harvest Area (ha)	Roadline length (km)	Coupe Driveway Gross Area (ha)	Total Gross Area (In Coupe Gross + Driveway Gross) (ha)	Forest Stand Description	unallocated AO Area within coupe (ha)	VicForests Action
North East	Benalla/Mansfield	Benalla/Mansfield	380-503-0003	Cain	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	40.1	19.0	0.0	0.0	40.1	Ash		
North East	Benalla/Mansfield	Benalla/Mansfield	380-503-0004	Gaelic	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	75.0	31.4	0.0	13.7	88.7	Ash	0.54	Mapping inconsistency - any area of Park will be clarified and excluded from harvesting
North East	Benalla/Mansfield	Benalla/Mansfield	380-503-0005	Terrier	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	55.2	7.4	0.0	8.1	63.3	Ash		
North East	Benalla/Mansfield	Benalla/Mansfield	380-503-0006	Cain Creek RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	76.7	7.0	6.9	0.0	76.7	Mixed Species	2.08	All roadworks will be conducted with required authority.
North East	North East	Upper Murray	695-520-0002	Faction	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	40.6	20.9	0.0	0.0	40.6	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	695-520-0003	Volki	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	50.8	19.7	0.0	0.0	50.8	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	695-525-0003	Dunstons Corner	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	53.0	13.2	0.0	0.0	53.0	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	698-506-0001	Sheik	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	49.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	49.3	Ash	1.03	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
North East	North East	Upper Murray	698-506-0002	Ski Hut	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	69.3	22.3	0.0	0.0	69.3	Ash	0.78	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
North East	North East	Upper Murray	698-511-0002	Northland	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	47.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	47.0	Mixed Species	0.94	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
North East	North East	Upper Murray	698-511-0003	Olin	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	40.9	10.7	0.0	0.0	40.9	Ash	1.93	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
North East	North East	Upper Murray	698-511-0004	Ski Hut Track RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	20.2	7.9	1.0	0.0	20.2	Ash	0.60	All roadworks will be conducted with required authority.
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-513-0001	Uncle Buck	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	109.8	19.9	0.0	0.0	109.8	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-514-0001	North Buck	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	78.4	22.9	0.0	0.0	78.4	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-514-0002	Boeback Track RDC	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	47.6	19.3	4.2	0.0	47.6	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-514-0006	Walkers Road RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	127.6	51.6	13.0	0.0	127.6	Ash	9.77	All roadworks will be conducted with required authority.
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-515-0001	Frank	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	49.6	16.3	0.0	0.0	49.6	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-515-0003	East Buck	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	53.8	14.5	0.0	0.0	53.8	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-515-0004	Buck Walker	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	24.4	9.7	0.0	0.0	24.4	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-515-0005	Brasher Spur	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	28.8	11.7	0.0	0.0	28.8	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-518-0004	Moment	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	38.1	6.7	0.0	0.0	38.1	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-518-0005	Photo Finish	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	22.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	22.0	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-519-0001	West Buck	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	72.1	20.5	0.0	0.0	72.1	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-519-0002	South Buck	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	64.4	15.3	0.0	0.0	64.4	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	699-521-0002	Walkers Spur	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	76.8	19.7	0.0	0.0	76.8	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	700-501-0008	Dropoff	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	37.5	5.3	0.0	0.0	37.5	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	700-504-0004	Marginal Road RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	48.5	19.5	4.5	0.0	48.5	Mixed Species		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	700-504-0006	Extra Clean	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	54.1	11.6	0.0	0.0	54.1	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	700-505-0006	Upper Papes Track RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	48.2	19.3	4.7	0.0	48.2	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	700-512-0005	Elan	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	30.9	12.0	0.0	0.0	30.9	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	700-512-0006	Blizzard	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	23.8	9.2	0.0	0.0	23.8	Ash		
North East	North East	Upper Murray	700-566-0003	Upper Papes Gap	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	44.1	26.3	0.0	0.0	44.1	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	726-505-0006	Chester	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	93.4	46.0	0.0	0.0	93.4	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	726-505-0007	Campo	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	120.0	29.4	0.0	0.0	120.0	Ash	14.76	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	726-505-0008	Uncle Fester	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	93.8	17.3	0.0	0.0	93.8	Ash	4.58	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	726-507-0002	Chester Road RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	76.9	9.6	8.2	0.0	76.9	Mixed Species	2.13	All roadworks will be conducted with required authority.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-501-0007	Michelin	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	58.0	14.4	0.0	0.0	58.0	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-505-0004	Solleware	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	116.0	45.1	0.0	0.0	116.0	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-505-0005	Runaway	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	92.1	50.3	0.0	0.0	92.1	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-506-0002	Woodsmen	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	55.5	17.5	0.0	0.0	55.5	Ash	1.59	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-507-0005	Dow Jones	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	116.3	40.2	0.0	0.0	116.3	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-507-0006	Shamal	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	85.4	29.8	0.0	0.0	85.4	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-509-0001	Tremec	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	92.7	33.4	0.0	0.0	92.7	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-509-0002	Mt Dow RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	27.7	5.5	5.4	0.0	27.7	Ash	6.69	All roadworks will be conducted with required authority.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-510-0006	Rotating	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	69.0	30.1	0.0	0.0	69.0	Ash	1.09	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-510-0007	Aidensfield	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	37.2	12.8	0.0	12.8	50.0	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	727-511-0008	Ched	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	70.9	35.6	0.0	0.0	70.9	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Bairnsdale	729-505-0005	Confluence	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	39.7	9.1	0.0	6.9	46.6	Ash	0.31	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	711-504-0009	Starelle	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	23.5	7.6	0.0	0.0	23.5	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	712-506-0001	Sugartown	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	105.3	71.2	0.0	0.0	105.3	Ash	1.49	Any harvesting in unallocated area will be subject to additional authorisation by DELWP or excluded.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	712-506-0004	Berisha	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	45.3	36.0	0.0	0.0	45.3	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	712-506-0005	Lieder	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	119.6	45.6	0.0	0.0	119.6	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	712-506-0006	Dandre	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	87.1	30.2	0.0	0.0	87.1	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	712-506-0007	Zoushack	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	57.4	9.5	0.0	0.0	57.4	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	712-506-0008	Cordilla	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	102.8	50.3	0.0	0.0	102.8	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	712-506-0009	Dinner Creek RDI	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Roads	39.7	5.9	5.5	0.0	39.7	Ash	1.76	All roadworks will be conducted with required authority.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	716-501-0001	Annabour	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	76.3	29.6	0.0	0.0	76.3	Ash	11.94	Unallocated area will be excluded from harvesting.
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	766-507-0002	Galenus	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	39.4	11.7	0.0	0.0	39.4	Ash		
East Gippsland	Tambo	Swifts Creek	775-502-0002	Cadogan	Propose new boundary	2020/2021	Adaptive Silviculture - Recovery	119.6	33.4	0.0	0.0	119.6	Ash	6.35	Any harvesting in unallocated area will be subject to additional authorisation by DELWP or excluded.



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