



VAFI

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

Tuesday, 3 June 2008

NEW RECORD SET FOR EPA FORESTRY AUDIT

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) has welcomed the release of the fifth annual audit of forestry practices on public land by the Environment Protection Authority, which sets a new record for the Victorian forest industry's compliance with the State Government's *Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production*.

According to the EPA's independent assessment, Victoria's forestry operations achieved a 94 per cent compliance rate with the Victorian Government's environmental standards; a result the VAFI Deputy Director, Lisa Marty, believes is testament to the industry's practice of sustainable timber production.

"The results of the independent annual forest audit are a reflection of the Victorian timber industry's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and adherence to Government requirements," Ms Marty said.

"Victorians can be immensely proud of their native timber industry, an industry which is committed to continually improving its performance, and achieving world's best practice."

The audit found a high level of compliance in a wide range of areas including identification and protection of wildlife habitat trees, harvesting planning, the protection of reserves and the management of harvesting areas; however, the industry remains committed to further improvement.

"The Victorian timber industry aims to be a world leader in sustainable environmental practices. Independent audits of forestry practices are important for measuring our industry's performance and meeting community expectations for responsible management of our native forests," Ms Marty said.

"This is just one milestone in that process."

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