

# VAFI

## VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES

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### The VAFI Welcomes Regional Forest Agreement Review

Victoria's peak independent forestry body, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) welcomes the review of the state's five Regional Forest Agreements (RFA).

The VAFI Chief Executive Philip Dalidakis said the announcement had been expected for some time, and the Association looked forward to the final outcomes confirming the Victorian timber industry's ongoing compliance with all existing RFAs.

"RFAs provide a level of certainty to the many timber communities who rely on the industry for their continued wellbeing. They have the potential to strike the correct balance between providing timber resources and achieving appropriate levels of environmental conservation," Mr Dalidakis said.

Mr Dalidakis said he hopes the current state government abides by the outcomes of this review, as previous RFAs have been effectively torn up.

"Previous Victorian state governments have seen fit to ignore the industry aspects of RFAs, instead deciding to favour stronger environmental outcomes at the expense of local timber communities," Mr Dalidakis said.

"The Victorian timber industry constantly strives to achieve the balance between continued economic development and environmental conservation. We believe this review will confirm that the industry is consistent in meeting its environmental obligations, whilst achieving positive outcomes for the timber industry."

The VAFI looks forward to working within the parameters set out by the Victorian state government and strongly believes the final outcomes will confirm the industry's ongoing compliance with all existing RFAs.

The Victorian timber industry wants to continue to make a positive environmental and economic contribution to communities throughout rural and regional Victoria, and this review of existing RFAs will provide the security needed to achieve this.

"The VAFI highly commends the Hon. Tony Burke, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and welcomes his strong statement of support for the existing RFAs and the certainty they should provide to our forest industries, timber workers and the many regional communities who depend on forestry," Mr Dalidakis added.

**Philip Dalidakis is available for comment**

**Media contacts: James Copsey, 0400 956 741  
Simon Mossman, Wilkinson PR, 0414 472 585**

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