



**OUR  
TIMBER**  
EVERY DAY, EVERY COMMUNITY



## WHY VICTORIAN REGULATIONS ARE WORLD CLASS

### PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

In Victoria our forests, and their flora and fauna, are protected by a detailed legislative and regulatory framework which considers environmental, social and economic factors.

The law makes sure timber harvesting can only happen sustainably.

This includes the Sustainable Forest (Timber) Act 2004, the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, the Conservation Forests and Lands Act 1987 and the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014. The areas unavailable for harvesting include around 4.78 million hectares of forest in Victoria protected in national parks and conservation reserves.

The national framework for forest management, the Regional Forest Agreements, requires that additional reserves are created inside State forests, further reducing the area available to harvest.

VicForests harvests approximately 3,000 hectares, or less than 0.04%, of Victoria's forests each year. Careful prescriptions are also enforced in areas where harvesting operations occur. These prescriptions are designed to protect important environmental, historical and recreational features.

They include measures such as:

- Retaining habitat trees to allow for bird nesting
- Retaining seed trees to help the forest regrow
- Retaining buffer zones alongside rivers, creeks and other key environmental features
- Retaining additional protection zones where no harvesting is permitted or where harvesting operations are modified, and
- The creation of harvesting exclusion zones during harvesting operations to minimise the potential impact on endangered species populations (like the Leadbeater's Possum).

### BIODIVERSITY

VicForests, which is itself prudently regulated as the state-owned harvesting business, puts a range of measures in place during its operations to protect biodiversity:

- Habitat is made available for native fauna by retaining habitat trees and seed trees in areas where harvesting takes place.
- Retention of habitat islands, or unharvested areas within coupes, is another method designed to enable species to continue to grow and flourish in harvested regions.
- Following harvesting operations, replanting and regrowth operations commence to regenerate the landscape in line with its appropriate species.
- It is ensured there is suitable habitat and food for all species living in these forests. Different aged forests also provide a variety of habitats and resources to local fauna.