



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Solar Homes

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Dear Mr Legge

### VARIATION TO THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION 2014

In 2018, at my request, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) commissioned an independent review of timber harvesting regulations to ensure that the environmental, cultural and economic values of State forests are protected and enhanced for future generations. The review panel developed a report outlining 14 recommendations, all of which were accepted in full by DELWP. In combination with the broader Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) modernisation program, DELWP's response to the recommendations will provide a stronger regulatory and legislative framework to protect Victoria's natural environment.

Recommendation 10 outlined the need to improve regulatory tools, including by engaging with stakeholders to develop a common understanding of the *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014* (the Code) and where there is any disagreement on interpretation engage expert and/or legal advice to develop guidance. As such, DELWP has commenced a two-staged review of the Code to provide greater regulatory certainty and improve environmental outcomes.

Stage 1 of the Code review will primarily focus on clarifying roles and responsibilities, clearly stating purpose, scope and the intent of the instrument, and correcting administrative errors. It may also include any relevant regulatory measures announced by government, such as the protection of large trees from timber harvesting. I am pleased to advise that public consultation on these proposed changes will commence in July and will provide an opportunity to develop a common understanding of the Code.

Subsequent to the above process, stage 2 of the Code review will commence in 2020 to provide a more comprehensive review based on new scientific evidence, information and findings from the RFA forest value assessments, and broader regulatory and forest management planning reviews.

Following a formal public notification, information on the Code review will be available on the DELWP website at: <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/futureforests>.

Yours sincerely

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