

## VICFORESTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES OF MEETING No. 125

**MEETING DETAILS:** Thursday, 19 December 2019

8.30AM to 1.00PM

VicForests Boardroom  
Level 12, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne

#### **13. Timber Release Plan (late paper – for approval)**

The Timber Release Plan (TRP) and Timber Utilisation Plan (TUP) documents were circulated to the Board as late papers prior to the meeting.

VicForests has prepared a change to the existing TRP and an amendment to the TUP for approval by the Board.

Management gave a presentation, outlining the proposed changes to the TRP and TUP and the stakeholder engagement process. Key points as follows:

Changes to the TRP include:

A schedule of changes that include 717 coupes (refer Attachment 1)

- 432 new coupes;
- 39 amended coupes;
- 13 new access requirements;
- 231 removals (consisting of 186 coupes successfully regenerated and 46 unharvested coupes which were unsuitable or not required); and
- 2 coupes to have an increase in harvesting intensity

Changes to the TUP include:

Consistent with Allocation Order requirements, VicForests conducted a formal stakeholder consultation from 21 November to 12 December 2019. This included formal notification to Government agencies DELWP, DJPR, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

A mailout to approximately 2,000 external stakeholders including Shires, customers, contractors and staff was delivered to publicise the commencement. Stakeholders were also notified via advertising in local newspapers, external newsletter 'The View' and a media release.

An Open House event was held in Traralgon on 11 December 2019. The event was advertised via local newspapers and on the VicForests website.

Consultations were also undertaken with traditional owner groups.

Management also advised the Board of a letter received on 18 December 2019 from John Bradley of DELWP, in response to VicForests' invitation to comment on VicForests' proposed changes to the TRP and TUP. The letter raises several issues, including a critical issue on VicForests' "continued inclusion of coupes or part coupes on the TRP which are outside the Allocation Order". The letter stated boundaries of 24 coupes proposed for timber harvesting operations on the TRP overlap with the IPAs. The letter requested VicForests amend the boundaries.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve the change to VicForests' Timber Release Plan and Timber Utilisation Plan as proposed.

1. The Board noted Management's advice that the proposed changes are compliant.
2. The Board endorsed the changes to VicForests' Timber Release Plan and Timber Utilisation Plan as proposed.
- 3.
4. The Board noted Management's proposed response via Press Release

The Board approved the change to VicForests' Timber Release Plan and Timber Utilisation Plan as proposed, noting the additional points outlined above.