

The Victorian Forestry Plan Lies and Mistruths

Victoria produces some of the finest sustainable, renewable, certified, local hardwood timbers in the world - it's a fact!

The Victorian Andrews Government wants to take away your access, to the public resource that you own, and that provides these exquisite hardwood timber products that you want and desire. They are trying to justify this using outright lies and mistruths, whilst at the same time ignoring fact, science, climate change reality, logic and Victorian consumer desires.

Transition to Plantations

Hardwood plantations do not exist in Victoria to substitute for sustainable, native hardwood production forests, and they would take 40-80 years to grow, if you could find the land - the Govt's suggestion that transition to plantations is a viable alternative is simply misleading and untrue.

Consumer Product Demand

Victorian consumers and families want affordable homes that include hardwood feature flooring, staircases, cabinetry, joinery, mouldings, doors, windows, durable building claddings, furniture, high strength structural members, decks, screens, fences and landscaping products. Any reduction in local supply simply means increased imports possibly from tropical hardwood forests with far lower environmental regulations and standards and at higher cost.

Victorian Hardwood Timber Products

- Beautiful, desired, prized by consumers
- Environmentally friendly - storing carbon, reducing climate change impacts
- Local, affordable, sustainable - *The Ultimate Renewable™*
- Proudly Victorian - supporting local jobs and communities
- Accessed from a very small area of Victoria's significant native forest estate
 - Effectively, out of 10,000 trees only 4 harvested and all are regrown - by law
 - No Old Growth harvested
 - Independently certified, locally and globally through PEFC International
 - Owned by all Victorians for all their social, economic & environmental benefits

Carbon & the Environment

Growing trees not only produce oxygen and store carbon, which helps tackle climate change, but no other material can compare to wood's organic, sustainable and renewable nature. Victoria has one of the most sustainable forest resources in the world, and only a very small area is utilised for timber products.

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Globally it is well recognized and understood, including by the IPCC, that a sustainable, timber industry storing carbon in certified and well managed forests and products is one of the best ways to combat climate change.

No Plan at All!

The Victorian Government's *Victorian Forestry Plan* states it will 'assist the industry as it manages its gradual transition away from native logging' – WRONG – and it doesn't take the Victorian public into account at all.

It will not protect Victoria's native forest for future generations – *in fact it will cause more intense bushfires.*

It will not impact on 600-year-old, Old Growth – *in fact no Old Growth is harvested at present, it's all forest regrowth from past state bushfires.*

It will not protect forest wildlife or threatened species - *they are already protected in the 94% of Victoria's forests which are unavailable and/or unsuitable for harvesting.*

The plan will reduce Victoria's ability to store more carbon and assist to reduce climate change impacts.

The plan will mean the Andrews Labor Government will look to take way from the Victorian citizens a public resource, which the people own, utilize widely, and which supplies the hardwood timber products that consumers continue to desire and purchase.

