



VicForests' 2009-10 Sustainability Report

Key Highlights

- ~ VicForests' total sales revenue for 2009-10 increased by \$6 million to \$131.5 million, while the total area harvested was almost 10% smaller than in 2008-09.
- ~ Within eastern Victoria, VicForests harvested 544 coupes, or 5,047 hectares, less than 0.1% of Victoria's total native forest area.
- ~ VicForests' salvage harvesting operations provided 51% of the total volume of timber harvested, and produced just under one million m³ of timber. These operations have significantly relieved pressure on unburnt areas within State forest.
- ~ Regeneration of harvested areas is a core part of VicForests' business, with every hectare harvested then reseeded with the same species that naturally occurred on that site. This year's regeneration activities included:
 - o The preparation of 4,390 hectares for seeding and the sowing of 4, 569 hectares
 - o An area of 742 hectares in East Gippsland self-regenerated
 - o The maintenance of Victoria's largest store of eucalyptus seeds, including the collection of over 11 tonnes of seed and stocks of over 22 tonnes in storage
 - o An additional sowing program conducted in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), spreading more than 300 million seeds across fire-affected Victoria, to assist recovery following the Black Saturday fires
 - o More than 5,400 hectares of successfully regenerated forest handed back to DSE for ongoing management

The above activities have resulted in VicForests' regeneration program reaching within 7.5% of the regeneration target, a significant improvement from the previous year.

- ~ Staff assessed large areas of forest following the 2009 Black Saturday fires, with the results incorporated into sustainable yield models to determine future harvesting rates.
- ~ VicForests increased its investment in community engagement and now have dedicated Community Relationship Managers in both regions - Central Highlands and East Gippsland.
- ~ VicForests was re-certified to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS), which is part of the international certification scheme Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). This ensures our operations can be examined and compared with world's best practice.
- ~ OH&S indicators, including injury severity, among our contractors has dropped for the second consecutive year and near miss reporting has increased, indicating an improved safety culture within the industry.
- ~ VicForests continued its long-term monitoring projects to better understand and manage the impacts of its operations.
- ~ VicForests is committed to staff training and development, with the completion of 1,134 training courses during the year.
- ~ VicForests continued to explore new market opportunities for native forest timber.