

A photograph of a forest landscape with tall trees and green foliage, partially obscured by a green geometric shape in the top right corner.

30 November 2018

## Deloitte Access Economics Study Provides Insight into Economic Impact of Native Timber Industry

VicForests, today, released a study by Deloitte Access Economics showing the economic impact of native forestry in Victoria.

Commissioned by VicForests, *The Economic Impact of VicForests on the Victorian Community* found the native timber industry generates significant revenues and supports thousands of jobs across regional Victoria.

The study found VicForests, its customers and contractors generated \$770 million in revenue during 2015/16 and supported over 2500 jobs, many which are in regional areas.

The native timber industry is also a key employer in many towns in regional Victoria where there is limited other forms of employment. In Morwell, the native timber industry plays a significant role in local employment contributing to 1400 jobs or 19 per cent of the total Full-time Equivalent (FTE) employment in the area.

In Orbost, the native timber industry contributes 214 jobs or 11 per cent of the local employment.

VicForests General Manager of Corporate Affairs, Alex Messina, said:

“VicForests provides wood and livelihoods. This study highlights the vital role that VicForests has as an employer, economic and social contributor to the State, particularly in Gippsland and regional areas.

“The native timber industry contributes to the Victorian economy through our much sought-after product used in construction, furniture and other high-value goods.

“What we harvest, we regrow with the same forests type that we harvest. VicForests is credible, successful and dynamic native forestry business which delivers strong results for the Victorian community while protecting species in our state forests.”

VicForests is a State-owned business responsible for the harvest, sale and regrowing of timber from Victoria’s state forests.

The report extends and confirms a previous Deloitte study (2015) which looked only at the Central Highlands areas.

Since 2007, VicForests has been certified under the Responsible Wood certification scheme to the Australian Forestry Standard, which is endorsed by the world’s largest forest certification scheme, the PEFC.

*The Economic Impact of VicForests on the Victorian Community* can be found at the VicForests website at [www.vicforests.com.au](http://www.vicforests.com.au).

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