

Media Statement

7 September 2017

VicForests Media Statement in relation to the Friends of the Earth report released 7/9/2017

Lachlan Spencer, VicForests General Manager Stakeholders and Planning said:

"VicForests has previously responded to the allegations and does not believe that any represent a breach of the code of practice.

"The regulatory framework surrounding timber harvesting is complex and the claims made represent a misinterpretation of these requirements.

"VicForests encourages feedback into our operations as the forest is a dynamic and changing environment."

"Around 94% of our native forests excluded from harvesting including 4.7 million hectares protected in National Parks and conservation reserves.

"VicForests surveys every planned timber harvesting area prior to commencing operations for a range of environmental values.

"We regularly use qualified external ecologists to conduct pre-harvest surveys on behalf of VicForests to look for threatened species and their habitat ensure they are protected.

"VicForests follows a detailed and on-going planning process before commencing any work on areas planned for harvest and takes on board all new information as it becomes available.

"VicForests encourages feedback into our operations as the forest is a dynamic and changing environment.

"Any new information that is presented to us is assessed and acted upon where needed which can, and does, result in modifying our operations.

"VicForests is aware of the cases mentioned in the report and took appropriate action for them at the time they were presented."

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