

Media Statement

6 September 2017

VicForests Media Statement sent to The Guardian in relation to the article ['Greater gliders: fears of catastrophic' consequences from logging in Victoria'](#) posted online 7/9/2017

Lachlan Spencer, VicForests General Manager Stakeholders and Planning said:

"During the detailed planning process VicForests surveys every proposed timber harvest area for a range of environmental values.

"VicForests has retained a number of areas within the timber harvest area for the protection of a range of habitat features suitable habitat for the Greater Glider.

"The area of this operation is 19 hectares and will be completed using the seed-tree harvesting method which involves leaving around six trees per hectare to naturally drop seeds to regrow the area after operations.

"The operation is expected to be completed end of September depending on weather.

"Around 94% of Victoria's native forests are excluded from timber harvesting and less than 0.1% of Victoria's native forests are harvested each year.

"The Greater Glider is found in forests from Queensland to Victoria and it is estimated there is more than 100 000 mature individuals throughout Australia.

"VicForests implements a range of conservation measures that support the Greater Glider and we are currently reviewing our practices to identify ways to further strengthen these measures.

"VicForests believes the Greater Glider can coexist with a sustainable timber industry."

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Background

Harvesting commenced 25 August 2017

VicForests planning process - <http://www.vicforests.com.au/planning-1/planning-process/stage-one>

The Greater Glider is a large forest dwelling gliding marsupial that is found in forests from Queensland to Central Victoria. Woinarski et al. (2014) estimate the number of mature individuals to be greater than 100 000.

Greater Gliders have been impacted by highly frequent and intensive fires, habitat change, loss of canopy connectedness, and loss of hollow bearing trees of suitable size and structure.

VicForests protects large hollow bearing trees as important habitat elements for conservation of gliders and other tree dwelling species. Hollow bearing trees are specifically protected within all harvesting operations. VicForests continues to consider where its practices can be amended to improve habitat protection for species such as the Greater Glider.



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Our current focus is on refining these conservation measures for the maximum benefit of biodiversity conservation at the landscape scale.

There is an extensive network of parks, reserves and other protected areas throughout the forests of Eastern Victoria. Around 94% of Victoria's native forests are excluded from timber harvesting including 4.7 million hectares protected in National Parks and conservation reserves.

VicForests harvests and regrows approximately 3 000 hectares each year, less than 0.1% of Victoria's native forest.

All protection measures must consider the balance between the need for conservation and the importance of the timber industry.

The Victorian timber industry supports thousands of jobs and provides a significant contribution to Victoria's economy.

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