

**VICTORIAN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 1999**

**East Gippsland**

**Central Highlands**

**North East Victoria**

**VICTORIAN REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS  
ANNUAL REPORT 1999**

This report fulfils the obligations under clause 25 of the East Gippsland Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) and clause 35 of the Central Highlands and North East Victoria RFAs whereby the parties to the Agreements are to report annually on the milestones set out in those Agreements. The milestones are set out in Attachments 3 (East Gippsland) and 4 (Central Highlands and North East Victoria) of the three RFAs, and are outlined in Tables 1 - 3 of this report.

The parties have agreed to provide the annual reports on milestones for all completed RFAs simultaneously.

Only those milestones that were due for completion by the end of 1999 are reported on in detail. Detail on significant action on other milestones is also provided. The report reflects amendments made to milestone dates in RFAs signed prior to December 1999. Further amendments to the earlier RFAs have also been made in the Gippsland and West Victoria RFAs which were signed on 31 March 2000. These amendments are not included in this report but will be reflected in the report for the year 2000.

**Table 1. Milestone Implementation - East Gippsland**

<b>Clause</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Implementation action</b>
<b>20</b>	Commonwealth to seek passage of amendments to woodchip export regulations under the <i>Export Control Act 1982</i> .	June 1997	<b>Milestone completed in April 1997.</b>
<b>29</b>	Victoria to implement an on-going quality assurance programme.	2002 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Ongoing. An independent review of the audits of compliance with the <i>Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production</i> was completed in April 1999.</b>
<b>34</b>	Victoria to complete and publish regional prescriptions for timber production.	December 1998 <sup>2</sup>	<b>Milestone completed by December 1998.</b>

<sup>1</sup> Original milestone date (2000) amended in clause 44 of the North East Victoria RFA.

<sup>2</sup> Original milestone date (December 1997) amended in clause 45 of the Central Highlands RFA.

Clause	Milestone	Timeline	Implementation action
34	Victoria to use its best endeavours to complete and publish management plans for all National and State Parks.	December 1998	<b>All but three park plans were completed and published by the end of 1998. The remaining three plans are essentially complete, but are undergoing additional consultation with aboriginal communities under the Native Title Act. The National Park Act requires a management plan to be prepared for each national and State park.</b>
34	Victoria to implement the Integrated Forest Planning System and the Statewide Forest Resource Inventory for East Gippsland.	2001	<b>Ongoing.</b>
38	Victoria and the Commonwealth to assess the outcomes of the Montreal Process Implementation Group (MIG) process.	December 1997	<b>Milestone completed in December 1997 through Victoria's input and agreement to the "Framework of Regional (Sub-National) Level Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Australia".</b>
40	Victoria and the Commonwealth to develop sustainability indicators.	2002	<b>Ongoing.</b>
45	Victoria and the Commonwealth to undertake and where relevant complete threatened species work as detailed in Attachment 4 (of the East Gippsland RFA).	2002	<b>Work is well advanced on the preparation of Action Statements and Recovery Plans for several species. Action Statements have been completed for the Powerful Owl, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Eastern Bristlebird, Yellow Hyacinth Orchid (<i>Dipodium hamiltonianum</i>) and Silurian Limestone <i>Pomaderris</i> Shrubland.</b>
46	Victoria to develop programs for pest plant and pest animal control.	2002	<b>Ongoing.</b>

<b>Clause</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Implementation action</b>
<b>49</b>	Victoria to implement agreed tenure changes to establish the CAR Reserve System.	February 1998	<b>Completed. The tenure changes were legislated in November 1998.</b>
<b>51</b>	Victoria to publish an amendment to the East Gippsland Forest Management Area Plan.	June 1997	<b>Milestone completed in June 1997.</b>
<b>56</b>	Commonwealth to seek to remove export controls for timber sourced from all Victorian plantations.	March 1997	<b>Milestone completed in March 1997.</b>
<b>61</b>	Victoria to complete a review in accordance with the Competition Principles Agreement.	1999	<b>Milestone completed in May 1999.</b>
<b>64</b>	Victoria to publish its rainforest research.	1998 <sup>3</sup>	<b>Milestone completed in December 1998.</b>
<b>67</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth develop a Data Agreement and lodge archival copies of data	31 March 2001 <sup>4</sup>	<b>Ongoing.</b>

<sup>3</sup> Original milestone date (December 1997) amended in Attachment 1 of the Central Highlands RFA.

<sup>4</sup> Original milestone date (June 1997) amended in clause 84 of the North East RFA.

**Table 2. Milestone Implementation - Central Highlands**

<b>Clause</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Implementation action</b>
<b>44</b>	Victoria to implement an ongoing Quality Assurance Program.	2002 <sup>5</sup>	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>45</b>	Victoria to complete and publish regional prescriptions for timber production.	December 1998	<b>Milestone completed by December 1998.</b>
<b>45</b>	Victoria to use its best endeavours to complete and publish management plans for all National and State Parks.	December 1998	<b>All but three park plans were completed and published by the end of 1998. The remaining three plans are essentially complete, but are undergoing additional consultation with aboriginal communities under the Native Title Act. The National Park Act requires a management plan to be prepared for each national and State park.</b>
<b>45</b>	Victoria to implement the Integrated Forest Planning System and the Statewide Forest Resource Inventory for the Central Highlands.	2001	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>50</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth to develop sustainability indicators.	2002	<b>Ongoing.</b>

<sup>5</sup> Original milestone date (2000) amended in clause 44 of the North East Victoria RFA.

<b>Clause</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Implementation action</b>
<b>57</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth to undertake and where relevant complete threatened species work as detailed in Attachment 2 (of the Central Highlands RFA).	2002	<b>Work is well advanced on the preparation of Action Statements for several species. Action Statements have been completed for the Warragul Burrowing Crayfish, Curly Sedge (<i>Carex tasmanica</i>), Shiny Nematolepis (<i>Nematolepis willsonii</i>) and Gully Grevillea (<i>Grevillea barklyana</i> ssp. <i>Barklyana</i>).</b>
<b>59</b>	Victoria to develop programs for pest plant and pest animal control.	2003	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>65</b>	Victoria to publish a Central Highlands Forest Management Plan.	30 June 1998	<b>Milestone completed in May 1998.</b>
<b>81</b>	Victoria will report on progress toward development of a long term timber harvesting and water production strategy for the Thomson Reservoir catchment.	2002	<b>Significant progress has been made using the Macaque model to predict long-term changes in streamflow caused by timber harvesting activities. The model will provide information for the long term strategy for the Thomson catchment.</b>
<b>82</b>	Victoria to complete a review in accordance with the Competition Principles Agreement.	1999	<b>Milestone completed in May 1999.</b>
<b>86</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth will develop a schedule to the Statewide Data Agreement and lodge archival copies of data. (relevant to the Central Highlands).	31 March 2000 <sup>6</sup>	<b>Ongoing.</b>

<sup>6</sup> Original milestone date (September 1998) amended in clause 84 of the North East Victoria RFA.

<b>Clause</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Implementation action</b>
<b>Attach. 1</b>	Victoria to assess endangered, vulnerable or rare Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) on Melbourne Water Corporation lands (in the Central Highlands).	2002	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>Attach. 1</b>	Victoria to prepare Regional Vegetation Plans covering the Central Highlands which provide for the protection of endangered, vulnerable or rare EVCs on private land.	2001	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>Attach. 1</b>	Victoria to publish a Technical Report on Rainforest.	1998	<b>Milestone completed in December 1998.</b>
<b>Attach. 3 cl. 5</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth to prepare Statewide Cultural Heritage Guidelines.	30 June 2000 <sup>7</sup>	<b>Work is in progress, however completion of the milestone is expected to go beyond the timeline. Delays in this process have occurred as a result of the extended timelines for completing the West Victoria and Gippsland RFAs. Work was also delayed awaiting the development of the state-wide Aboriginal Heritage Management System.</b>

<sup>7</sup> Original milestone (December 1999) amended in Attachment 3 of the North East Victoria RFA.

**Table 3. Milestone Implementation – North East Victoria**

<b>Clause</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Implementation action</b>
<b>35</b>	Parties to report annually on achievement for first five years, and then as part of the 5 yearly review.	Commencing 2000	<b>This is the first annual report.</b>
<b>44</b>	Victoria to implement an on-going quality assurance program.	2002	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>45</b>	Victoria to implement the Integrated Forest Planning System and the Statewide Forest Resource Inventory in the North East region in time for the next review of sustainable yield.	2001	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>48 and 50</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth to develop sustainability indicators.	In time for the first review of this Agreement (2004)	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>55-57</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth to undertake and, where relevant, complete threatened species work as detailed in Attachment 2 (of the North East RFA).	2004	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>59</b>	Victoria to develop programs for pest plant and animal control.	2004	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>62 - Attach. 1</b>	Victoria agrees to implement the agreed land tenure change.	2001	<b>Ongoing.</b>



<b>Clause</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Implementation action</b>
<b>65</b>	Victoria to produce and publish the North East Forest Management Plan.	30 June 2000	<b>Work is progressing for completion of this milestone by 31 December 2000. Delays experienced as a result of the extended timelines for completing the West Victoria and Gippsland RFAs.</b>
<b>84</b>	Victoria and the Commonwealth to use best endeavours to develop a schedule to the Statewide Data Agreement and lodge archival copies of data.	By 31 March 2000	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>Attach. 1</b>	Victoria to develop and implement burning strategies that maintain or promote the ecological characteristics of Heathy Dry Forest through fire operations plans.	2004	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>Attach. 1</b>	Victoria to prepare Regional Vegetation Plans covering the North East which provide for the protection of endangered, vulnerable or rare EVCs on private land.	2001	<b>Ongoing.</b>
<b>Attach. 3</b>	Parties to prepare Statewide Guidelines for the Management of Cultural Heritage Values in the Forests, Parks and Reserves of Victoria, based on those prepared for East Gippsland.	by 30 June 2000	<b>Work is in progress, however completion of the milestone is expected to go beyond the timeline. Delays in this process have occurred as a result of the extended timelines for completing the West Victoria and Gippsland RFAs. Work was also delayed awaiting the development of the state-wide Aboriginal Heritage Management System.</b>