

The RFA at a Glance

A twenty year agreement, with legally binding provisions, to provide certainty for industry development, establish a world class reserve system, and ensure the ecologically sustainable management of Central Highlands forests.

Certainty and security for industry development and employment growth.

- Commitment by Victoria to supply to industry as a minimum the current licensed volume of D+ sawlogs (345,000 cubic metres per annum) for the next 20 years from the Dandenong, Central and Central Gippsland Forest Management Areas.
- Removes Commonwealth controls on woodchip exports
- Facilitates value adding, marketing and product development in the wood and wood products industries.
- Provides certainty for future planning for development in mining, tourism and recreation.

A world class Comprehensive Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System.

- The CAR Reserve System meets the JANIS reserve criteria.
- An additional 116,000 hectares of public land to be included in CAR Reserve System, an increase of 64 per cent. This brings the total CAR Reserve System in the Central Highlands to about 297,000 hectares.
- Nearly 50 per cent of public land managed primarily for conservation.

Ecologically sustainable forest management both on and off reserves.

- Accreditation of Victoria's forest management system for the Central Highlands.
- Requires completion of regional prescriptions for timber production, the Central Highlands Forest Management Plan and management plans for National and State parks.
- Sets priorities for the management of vegetation communities and endangered species.
- Sets priorities for forest related research.
- Provides for the development of Statewide Guidelines for the Management of Cultural Heritage Values in Forests, Parks and Reserves.
- Improves the identification, protection and management of the National Estate.

Transparency and accountability of forest management.

- Five yearly reviews with public input to monitor implementation of the RFA.
- Reports of audits of compliance with the Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production undertaken by Victoria will be published.
- Victoria reaffirms its commitment to formal consultation with local Aboriginal communities.
- Victoria reaffirms its commitment to review pricing and allocation policies for government-owned commercial forestry operations.