

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 8:32 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: Review: Public land native timber harvesting for VIC SSG [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: v0.4 SSG update 2019 DJPR Final draft (3 Oct 2019)_BM.docx

Good morning ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Please find attached our comments on the SSGs for Victoria. We have used the acronym NFP to differentiate our input.

We have read through the whole document, with a particular focus on the pages you suggested but did not have anything significant to add. The draft and current structure looks good from our perspective.

Thanks

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @environment.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2021 11:00 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: Review: Public land native timber harvesting for VIC SSG [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

We're currently in the drafting process of updating the Victorian State Specific Guidelines (SSG).

In particular, the SSG requires an update in terms of public land native timber harvesting in Victoria. I've attached the draft for your information.

If possible, would you be able to kindly review pages 6, 7 and 11 and provide your thoughts or comments/edits in how this topic should be presented? Please let me know if **COB this week** works for you.

Greatly appreciate any assistance and happy to discuss.

Kind regards,

^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Policy Officer | **International Forest Policy Section** | P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Agvet Chemicals and Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

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Forest produce licences may also be issued under section 52 of the *Forests Act 1958*. This mechanism is used to authorise smaller scale timber harvesting in western Victoria but may also be used in the east of the state for areas that fall outside the Allocation Order. Here, coupes permitted to be harvested are recorded in a document called a **Timber Utilisation Plan (TUP)**. The TUP lists VicForests' planned harvesting and regeneration activities for a period of up to five years. The TUP replaces and has the same purpose as the former Wood Utilisation Plans (WUPs).

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Scope of the Code

The Code applies to the planning and conduct of all commercial timber production and timber harvesting operations on public land and private land in Victoria. Timber harvesting operation, as defined in the Code, means any of the following kinds of activities carried out by any person or body for the purposes of sale or processing and sale —

- (a) felling or cutting of trees or parts of trees;
- (b) taking or removing timber;
- (c) delivering or transporting timber to, or a place for collection by, or sale to, a buyer;
- (d) any works, including road works, site preparation, planting and regeneration, ancillary to any of the activities referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c);

but does not include

- (e) the collection or production of firewood for domestic use.

Unless stated otherwise, any haulage, road construction, significant road improvement or road maintenance works, tending, regeneration or rehabilitation activities conducted in association with a timber harvesting operation are, by definition, also a timber harvesting operation and therefore also covered by the Code.

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Actions arising and issues captured during induction sessions

- VicForest practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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3.20	VicForest practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration	DJPR	4/5 March 2021		
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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RFA Major Events Review Panel Planning Day (Day 3) – 18 March 2021**Actions and Matters Arising**

The following is a table of the actions arising from meeting on 18 March 2021.

The JST has undertaken to consolidate and group these with the actions arising from the Induction Days on 4 and 5 March to prioritise and ensure timely follow-up.

Actions arising and issues captured on 18 March 2021

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Further data and information requests:

- pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration
- DELWP's cultural landscape strategy

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

3.21	Harvest level	VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration	DJPR	4/5 March 2021		TBD - Litigation/ Harvest review advice	
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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3.28	CAR reserve/ ESFM	pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration	DELWP	18 March 2021		TBD - CAR reserve / Timber Harvest advice	Clarification required.
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

3.21	Harvest level	VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration	DJPR	4/5 March 2021		TBD - Litigation/ Harvest review advice	
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Draft-in-confidence for review only

Attachment A - Actions and Matters Arising

The following is a table of the actions arising from meeting on 18 March 2021.

The JST has undertaken to consolidate and group these with the actions arising from the Induction Days on 4 and 5 March to prioritise and ensure timely follow-up.

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Attachment A - Actions and Matters Arising

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

3.28	CAR reserve/ ESM	Pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration	DELWP	18 March 2021	TBD - CAR reserve / Timber Harvest advice	Clarification required	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
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RFA Major Events Review Panel Planning Day (Day 3) – 18 March 2021**Actions and Matters Arising**

The following is a table of the actions arising from meeting on 18 March 2021.

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Actions arising and issues captured on 18 March 2021

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Further data and information requests:

- pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Draft-in-confidence for review only

Attachment A - Actions and Matters Arising

The following is a table of the actions arising from meeting on 18 March 2021.

The JST has undertaken to consolidate and group these with the actions arising from the Induction Days on 4 and 5 March to prioritise and ensure timely follow-up.

Actions arising and issues captured on 18 March 2021

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Further data and information requests:

- pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Attachment A - Actions and Matters Arising

The following is a table of the actions arising from meeting on 18 March 2021.

The JST has undertaken to consolidate and group these with the actions arising from the Induction Days on 4 and 5 March to prioritise and ensure timely follow-up.

Actions arising and issues captured on 18 March 2021

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Further data and information requests:

- pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration
- DELWP's cultural landscape strategy

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Issues and Action Register - Major Event Review Panel Support

3.21	Harvest level	VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration	DJPR	4/5 March 2021		TBD - Litigation/ Harvest review advice	
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

3.26	CAR reserve/ ESFM	Pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration	DELWP	18 March 2021		TBD - CAR reserve / Timber Harvest advice	Clarification required.
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Attachment A - Actions and Matters Arising

The following is a table of the actions arising from meeting on 18 March 2021.

The JST has undertaken to consolidate and group these with the actions arising from the Induction Days on 4 and 5 March to prioritise and ensure timely follow-up.

Actions arising and issues captured on 18 March 2021

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Further data and information requests:

- pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1)@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 5:25 PM
To: s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: OFFICIAL: Vic RFAs Major Event Review - Panel priority actions for JST [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

FYI – to discuss.

s. 47F(1) | Manager Strategic Forest Frameworks
 Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne
 T: s. 47F(1) E: s. 47F(1)@delwp.vic.gov.au
 W: www.delwp.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1)@ces.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 4:45 PM
To: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1)@delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au;
 s. 47F(1)@gmail.com>; s. 47F(1)@gmail.com>
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) s. 47F(1)@ces.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1)@ces.vic.gov.au>
Subject: OFFICIAL: Vic RFAs Major Event Review - Panel priority actions for JST

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

To assist with the Panel's future work, a series of requests for the JST were recorded as follows:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – see word document attached

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Action:

Develop questions regarding regenerating harvest areas

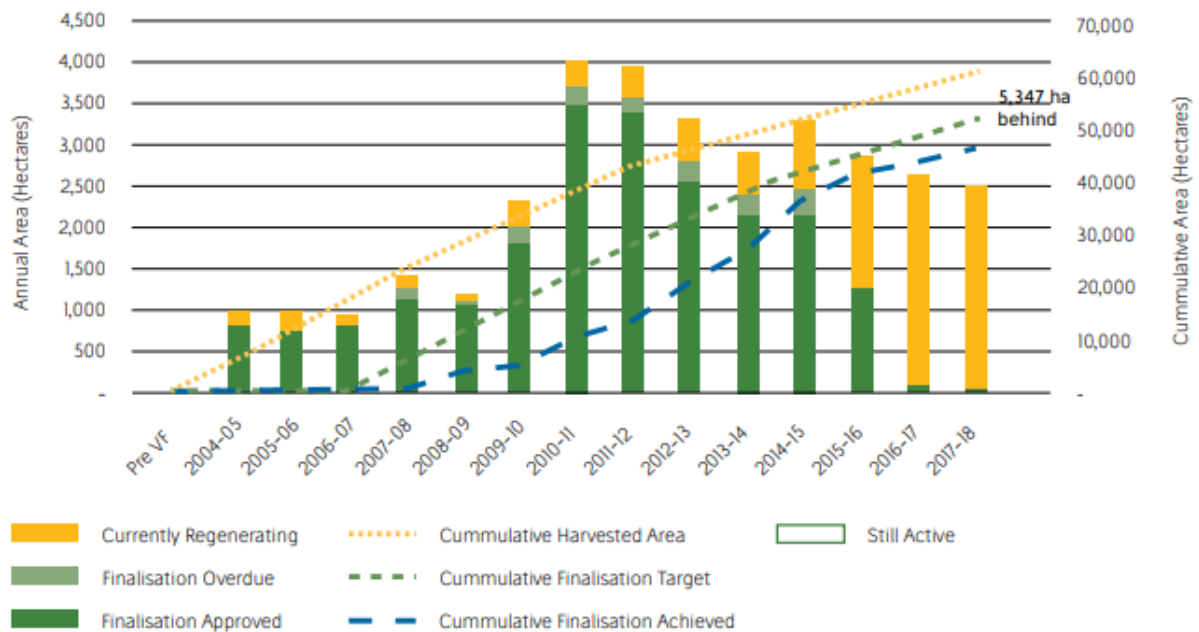
At the conclusion of harvesting, VicForests is obligated, under the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004* to regenerate the areas harvested. Victorian State of the Forests 2018 received cumulated net area regenerated after native forest harvest activities in eastern Victoria categorised by financial year. SoF2018 stated that data provided by VicForests and DJPR are difficult to assess forest regeneration after timber harvesting activities. Similarly, VAGO report “Managing Victoria’s Native Forest Timber Resources” in 2013 recommended to improve reporting to better align the reporting of harvesting and its corresponding regeneration.

5 years after the VAGO report was released, VAGO revisited their recommendations to attest progress in implementing actions that were accepted by targeted agencies. The follow-up report concluded that VicForests should clearly and accurately reconcile its successfully regenerated areas against the area harvested and reports this publicly.

In response to VAGO’s recommendation, VicForests published Sustainability Report 2014-15 and 2017-18. The 2017-18 report shows that VicForests has finalised and regenerated a net area of 46,096 hectares since it began, which is 5,347 hectares behind its internal regeneration target of 51,443 hectares (see the figure below). This is an improvement from the figure reported in 2014-15 as 9,591 hectares. It means VicForests successfully regenerated around 90% of the 51,443 hectares harvested. This rate of regeneration kept pace with harvesting, within the industry-accepted three-year lag between harvest and regeneration. Since the 2017-18 report, there has been no updates with the latest data. Therefore, two main questions arise in this context:

- 1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area?**
- 2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region?**

Note that coupes can only be ‘finalised’ when no further harvesting will take place in the coupe and all harvested areas have been successfully regenerated.

Figure 7: Coupe finalisation status by harvested area

After an area has been seeded it is actively monitored for around 18 months when VicForests conducts a regeneration survey to test the success of the regrowth. If regrowth has been successful it's handed back to the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP).

DELWP will manage that area of forest until it matures over 50-60 years and will eventually hand it back to VicForests to begin the process again.

It is also unclear is how DELWP manages these areas that were harvested once regeneration is confirmed over the next 50-60 years. Questions to DELWP that could be informative and useful for this matter are:

1. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests?
2. Does DELWP have information on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on these areas?

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Overarching question or null hypothesis to test	The 2019-20 fires had an impact on values, but had no impact on, or were as a result of, the operation or effectiveness of the RFA instruments and mechanisms. Therefore, no changes to the RFA instruments or mechanisms are required.
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Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
1. Panel top priority requests				
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
	1.2	<p>Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – (see word document in 29 March email)</p> <p>Since VicForests published Sustainability Report 2017-18,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area? 2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region? <p>Also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests? 4. Does DELWP have information on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on these areas? 	<p><i>Query relevance/prioritization. Seek DJPR comment.</i></p>	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the forest available for harvesting still provide the required quality, availability, accessibility? • Are the Victorian Forest Plan policy commitments able to be met? • Can VicForests' contractual obligations be met within these constraints? • Do the RFAs allow dial-up/-down of volumes in response to large scale fire events? 		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
	4.4	VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red; margin-left: 100px;">s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>				
	12.5	Pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration		
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>				

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1)@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 April 2021 5:50 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) (DELWP)
Subject: OFFICIAL: For Review: Draft response to the Panel re - Panel 6 priority actions for JST [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: Information plan_MER Panel_8 April 2021.docx; Action Register_MER Panel_8 April 2021.docx; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Dear JST

Below for your review and response is a proposed email to the Panel responding to their 6 priority information requests as identified in s. 47F(1)'s email of 29 March (also below).

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1) | Manager Strategic Forest Frameworks
 Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne
 T: s. 47F(1) E: s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au
 W: www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Draft email to Panel

Hello Panel,

Please see below our response to your 6 priority requests below.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – see word document attached
 - [These questions will be responded to in writing shortly by the JST.](#)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 March 2021 12:43 PM
To: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) @gmail.com>; s. 47F(1) @gmail.com>
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au>

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47F(1) | Manager Strategic Forest Frameworks
 Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

The panel members discussed various aspects of the information presented under each theme, identifying areas where further work could be done by CESD staff to assist the Panel and other areas where there are potential gaps in knowledge, some of which may be able to be addressed by other Victorian agencies.

To assist with the Panel's future work, a series of requests for the JST were recorded as follows:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – see word document attached

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Overarching question or null hypothesis to test	The 2019-20 fires had an impact on values, but had no impact on, or were as a result of, the operation or effectiveness of the RFA instruments and mechanisms. Therefore, no changes to the RFA instruments or mechanisms are required.
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
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		<p>VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration</p>		
<p style="font-size: 4em; color: red;">s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>				

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

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	12.5	Pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration		
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Action:

Develop questions regarding regenerating harvest areas

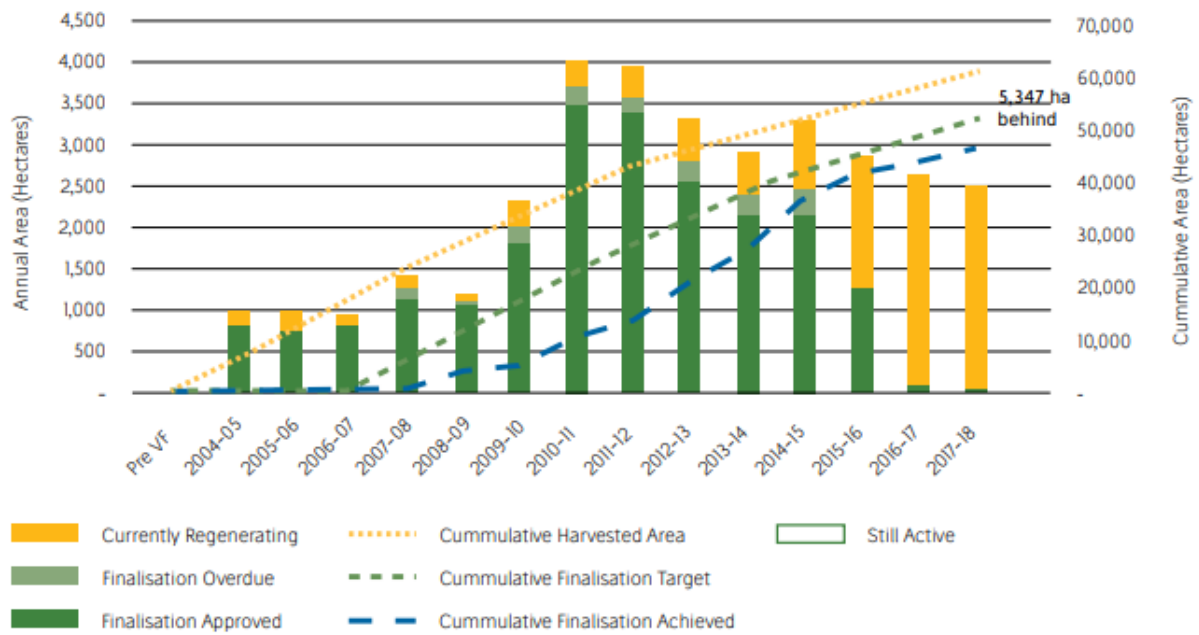
At the conclusion of harvesting, VicForests is obligated, under the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004* to regenerate the areas harvested. Victorian State of the Forests 2018 received cumulated net area regenerated after native forest harvest activities in eastern Victoria categorised by financial year. SoF2018 stated that data provided by VicForests and DJPR are difficult to assess forest regeneration after timber harvesting activities. Similarly, VAGO report “Managing Victoria’s Native Forest Timber Resources” in 2013 recommended to improve reporting to better align the reporting of harvesting and its corresponding regeneration.

5 years after the VAGO report was released, VAGO revisited their recommendations to attest progress in implementing actions that were accepted by targeted agencies. The follow-up report concluded that VicForests should clearly and accurately reconcile its successfully regenerated areas against the area harvested and reports this publicly.

In response to VAGO’s recommendation, VicForests published Sustainability Report 2014-15 and 2017-18. The 2017-18 report shows that VicForests has finalised and regenerated a net area of 46,096 hectares since it began, which is 5,347 hectares behind its internal regeneration target of 51,443 hectares (see the figure below). This is an improvement from the figure reported in 2014-15 as 9,591 hectares. It means VicForests successfully regenerated around 90% of the 51,443 hectares harvested. This rate of regeneration kept pace with harvesting, within the industry-accepted three-year lag between harvest and regeneration. Since the 2017-18 report, there has been no updates with the latest data. Therefore, two main questions arise in this context:

- 1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area?**
- 2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region?**

Note that coupes can only be ‘finalised’ when no further harvesting will take place in the coupe and all harvested areas have been successfully regenerated.

Figure 7: Coupe finalisation status by harvested area

After an area has been seeded it is actively monitored for around 18 months when VicForests conducts a regeneration survey to test the success of the regrowth. If regrowth has been successful it's handed back to the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP).

DELWP will manage that area of forest until it matures over 50-60 years and will eventually hand it back to VicForests to begin the process again.

It is also unclear is how DELWP manages these areas that were harvested once regeneration is confirmed over the next 50-60 years. Questions to DELWP that could be informative and useful for this matter are:

1. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests?
2. Does DELWP have information on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on these areas?

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 16 April 2021 10:38 AM
To: s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 47F(1)
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) (DELWP)
Subject: Vic RFA Major Event Review - Meeting papers, resource request & JST priority actions [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
2.1 Information plan_MER Panel_8 April 2021.docx; ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Good morning Panel,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response to priority questions

Please also see below our response to your 6 priority information requests as per s. 47F(1)'s email of 29 March:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas
 - These questions will be responded to in writing shortly by the JST.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Overarching question or null hypothesis to test	The 2019-20 fires had an impact on values, but had no impact on, or were as a result of, the operation or effectiveness of the RFA instruments and mechanisms. Therefore, no changes to the RFA instruments or mechanisms are required.
---	---

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
1. Panel top priority requests				
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		
	1.2	<p>Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – (see word document in 29 March email)</p> <p>Since VicForests published Sustainability Report 2017-18,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area? 2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region? <p>Also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests? 4. Does DELWP have information on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on these areas? 	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the forest available for harvesting still provide the required quality, availability, accessibility? • Are the Victorian Forest Plan policy commitments able to be met? • Can VicForests' contractual obligations be met within these constraints? • Do the RFAs allow dial-up/-down of volumes in response to large scale fire events? 		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
	4.4	VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration		
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
	12.5	Pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration		
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Overarching question or null hypothesis to test	The 2019-20 fires had an impact on values, but had no impact on, or were as a result of, the operation or effectiveness of the RFA instruments and mechanisms. Therefore, no changes to the RFA instruments or mechanisms are required.
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Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
1. Panel top priority requests				
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		
	1.2	<p>Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – (see word document in 29 March email)</p> <p>Since VicForests published Sustainability Report 2017-18,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area? 2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region? <p>Also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests? 4. Does DELWP have information on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on these areas? 	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the forest available for harvesting still provide the required quality, availability, accessibility? • Are the Victorian Forest Plan policy commitments able to be met? • Can VicForests' contractual obligations be met within these constraints? • Do the RFAs allow dial-up/-down of volumes in response to large scale fire events? 		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
	4.4	VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
	12.5	Pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration		
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Overarching question or null hypothesis to test	The 2019-20 fires had an impact on values, but had no impact on, or were as a result of, the operation or effectiveness of the RFA instruments and mechanisms. Therefore, no changes to the RFA instruments or mechanisms are required.
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Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
1. Panel top priority requests				
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
	1.2	<p>Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – (see word document in 29 March email)</p> <p>Since VicForests published Sustainability Report 2017-18,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area? 2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region? <p>Also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests? 4. Does DELWP have information on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on these areas? 	<p>JST to clarify with CES office.</p>	<p>Preliminary response provided via email.</p> <p>Overlap with CES office requests.</p>

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
<h1 style="color: red;">s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</h1>				
4. Harvest level				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have available log volumes been affected by the fires at RFA level? • Can the forest available for harvesting still provide the required quality, availability, accessibility? • Are the Victorian Forest Plan policy commitments able to be met? 	<h2 style="color: red;">s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</h2>	<h2 style="color: red;">s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</h2>		
	4.4	VicForests practices and impacts relating to salvaging, resowing ash species and resourcing for regeneration		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information plan - Major Event Review Panel Support

Assessment questions	#	Information requests	Proposed way forward	Status
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		
12. Other – bushfire response and management				
	12.5	Pre-bushfires status of forest regeneration activities and post-bushfire impacts on regeneration		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) @gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 9:53 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au); s. 47F(1)
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP); Gaglia, Julie; s. 47F(1) (s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au); s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 47F(1) (DEDJTR); s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au
Subject: 20210519 from TB regeneration data request [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 2.1B Addendum - RFA Panel science briefing DJPR & Bartlett comments.docx

Hi Everyone

Following discussions with s.47F(1) at CSE yesterday I have looked at this briefing request paper and hereby provide suggested revision to the last data request point on page 2 (covering previously regenerated harvesting coupes).

Cheers

s. 47F(1)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au>
Date: Monday, 17 May 2021 at 12:03 pm
To: s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au)" <s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au>, s. 47F(1) @gmail.com>, s. 47F(1) @gmail.com>
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP)" <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>, "Gaglia, Julie" <Julie.Gaglia@agriculture.gov.au>, s. 47F(1) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>, s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au)" <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>, s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au" <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>, s. 47F(1) (DEDJTR)" <s. 47F(1) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>, s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au" <s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Victorian RFA MER Panel Meeting 20 May - Additional Paper [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning Panel

Further to my email of Friday afternoon, please find attached a paper relating to regenerating areas originally provided by the Panel to the JST for response, as part of the 'Priority 6' requests. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | Native Forest Policy | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
 Agvet Chemicals and Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
 s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au
 18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
 GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

awe.gov.au



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 5:03 PM

To: s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au <s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) @gmail.com>; s. 47F(1) @gmail.com>

Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; Julie Gaglia (Julie.Gaglia@agriculture.gov.au) <Julie.Gaglia@agriculture.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) (DEDJTR) <s. 47F(1) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) @ces.vic.gov.au

Subject: Victorian RFA MER Panel Meeting 20 May - Agenda and Papers [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | Native Forest Policy | [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Agvet Chemicals and Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division

[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@awe.gov.au](mailto:awe.gov.au)

18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

awe.gov.au



----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered -----

Action:**Develop questions regarding regenerating harvest areas**

At the conclusion of harvesting, VicForests is obligated, under the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004* to regenerate the areas harvested. The Victorian State of the Forests 2018 (SoF2018) report detailed the received-cumulative net area regenerated after native forest harvest activities in eastern Victoria categorised by financial year. The SoF2018 stated that the data provided by VicForests and DJPR made it difficult to assess forest regeneration after timber harvesting activities. Similarly the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) report "Managing Victoria's Native Forest Timber Resources" in 2013 recommended improvements to regeneration reporting to better align the reporting of harvesting and related regeneration activities with corresponding regeneration.

Five years after the VAGO report was released, VAGO revisited their recommendations to attest progress in implementing actions that were accepted by targeted agencies. The follow-up report concluded that VicForests should clearly and accurately reconcile its successfully regenerated areas against the area harvested and report this publicly.

In response to VAGO's recommendation, VicForests published Sustainability Report 2014-15 and 2017-18. The 2017-18 report shows that VicForests has finalised and regenerated a net area of 46,096 hectares since VicForests was established, which is 5,347 hectares behind its internal regeneration target of 51,443 hectares (see the figure below). This is an improvement from the outstanding regeneration of figure reported in 2014-15 as 9,591 hectares reported in 2014-15. This means VicForests successfully regenerated around 90% of the 51,443 hectares it has harvested since it was established. This 90% rate of regeneration means that VicForests is within-kept pace with harvesting, within the industry- the accepted three-year lag between harvest and regeneration (i.e. regeneration is not always successful at the first pass for various reasons including but not limited to drought, frost and grazing and needs to be repeated). Since the 2017-18 report, there has been no updates with the latest data. Therefore, two main questions arise in this context:

1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area?
2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region?

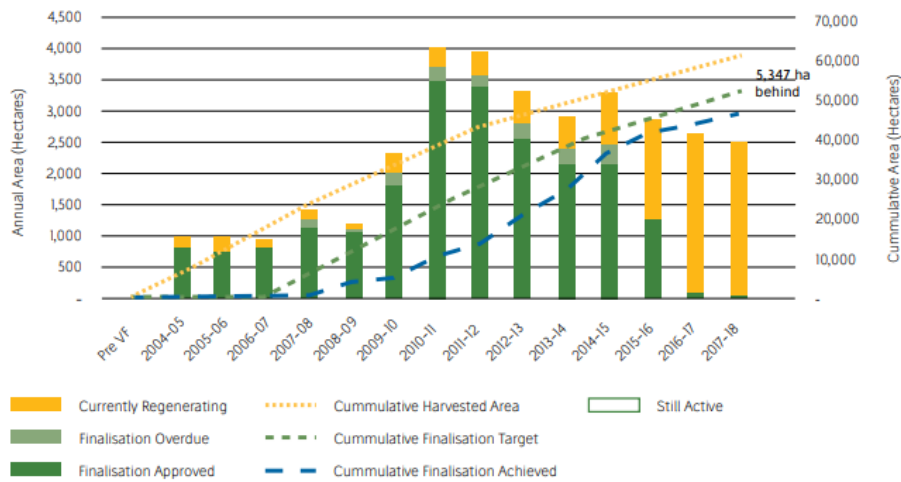
Note that coupes can only be 'finalised' when no further harvesting will take place in the coupe and all harvested areas have been successfully regenerated to the standards provided in the *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014*.

Commented [DJPR1]: These figures need to be verified and the source established. DJPR would be grateful if the Panel could identify the source.

Commented [DJPR2]: Information about coupe finalisation is publicly available in VicForests' Harvesting and Regeneration Report that is published annually. The 2018-19 report is accessible [here](#). Future Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Reports will be published according to a standard process.

Commented [DJPR3]: Analysis could be conducted on coupe finalisation status by RFA region, i.e. the data in the graph provided below.

Figure 7: Coupe finalisation status by harvested area



After an area has been seeded it is actively monitored for around 18 months when VicForests conducts a regeneration survey to test the success of the regrowth. If regrowth has been successful it's handed back to the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP).

DELWP will manage that area of forest until it matures over 50-60 years and will eventually hand it back to VicForests to begin the process again.

It is also unclear is how DELWP manages these areas that were harvested once regeneration is confirmed over the next 50-60 years. Questions to DELWP that could be informative and useful for this matter are:

1. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests?
2. [Can Does DELWP provide have data by RFA region information on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on these areas of both mixed species and ash forests previously reported as successfully regenerated?](#)

Commented [DJPR4]: VicForests do not 'hand back' areas to DELWP under current arrangements. There was formerly a 'hand back' process but under current arrangements timber rights are vested in VicForests through the Allocation Order and not as previously, the Timber Release Plan. Post the 2019/20 bushfires, VicForests through the provision of seed supported DELWP's responsibility for reseeded areas that had previously been successfully regenerated but were damaged by the bushfires. VicForests retained responsibility for coupes requiring regeneration. On occasion, successfully regenerated coupes do not meet regrowth expectations post-survey. These coupes are managed on a case-by-case basis by VicForests and DELWP.

Commented [DJPR5]: The Victorian Forestry Plan and the RFAs state that native timber harvesting will cease in 2030. Post 2030 harvested forest will continue to develop through a series of successional stages before senescing, in the absence of fire or other events.

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ACTIONS
Victorian RFA Major Event Review
Panel briefings

Timber harvesting (VicForests)		
Action No	Request	Who
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		
1.4	<p>Ash reseeded/regeneration information –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reseeded programs undertaken following the 2019-20 bushfires. • What does dept understand about previously regenerated areas? Any sampling of trees that shows adequate regeneration from reseeded? Are assumptions used valid or not valid? Stocktake of what was regenerated but not yet reached maturity before fire event occurred? • impacts of fires on coupes/stands of forest which were previously defined as 'adequately regenerated' that may no longer be secure after fires. • existing process for determining impacts on regenerating forests. • survey of/info on "handed back coupes" and whether they have been burnt. 	DELWP

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1)@delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 4:59 PM
To: s. 47F(1) DELWP; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR);
s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) (DJPR)
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL: RE: Responses to information requests – priority, MNES, and harvest level requests [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi all,

The table below summarises the responses to information requests prepared by DJPR and VicForests and includes folder addresses and links to GovTeams locations. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Reference #	Request	Information provided	GovTeams location (hyperlinked)
P-2	<p>Further information regarding regenerating harvest areas – (see word document in 29 March email)</p> <p>Since VicForests published Sustainability Report 2017-18,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an updated version of coupe finalisation status by harvest area? 2. Can this information (the figure below) be disaggregated by Regional Forest Agreement region? <p>Also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How does DELWP manage the area harvested and confirmed regenerated that were returned from VicForests? 4. Can DELWP provide data by RFA region on the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on the areas of both mixed species and ash forests previously reported as successfully regenerated? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel's request P-2 has four questions. Regarding questions 1 and 2 refer to paper <i>Coupe regeneration P-2 final</i>; • VicForests addressed questions 3 and 4 in part during the online panel briefings – e.g. refer to slide 20 of VicForests' resource and modelling presentation; • s. 22(1)(a)(ii) 	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1) | Manager Strategic Forest Frameworks
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne
T: s. 47F(1) E: s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au
W: www.delwp.vic.gov.au

OUTLINE OF CONTENT PROVIDED ON TIMBER HARVESTING MATTERS

Priority requests

Regenerating harvest areas (P-2):

- The Panel's request P-2 has four questions. Regarding questions 1 and 2 refer to paper *Coupe regeneration P-2 final*;
- VicForests addressed questions 3 and 4 in part during the online panel briefings – e.g. refer to slide 20 of VicForests' resource and modelling presentation;
- To fully acquit this item JST will provide further information on question 3 and 4.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

SUBJECT: VicForests briefing note in response to P-2

PURPOSE: For decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Independent Panel to the Major Event Review:

- **Notes** the status of the regenerating coupes.
- **Approves** that this paper acquits questions one and two of the P-2 request in the Master Information Plan.

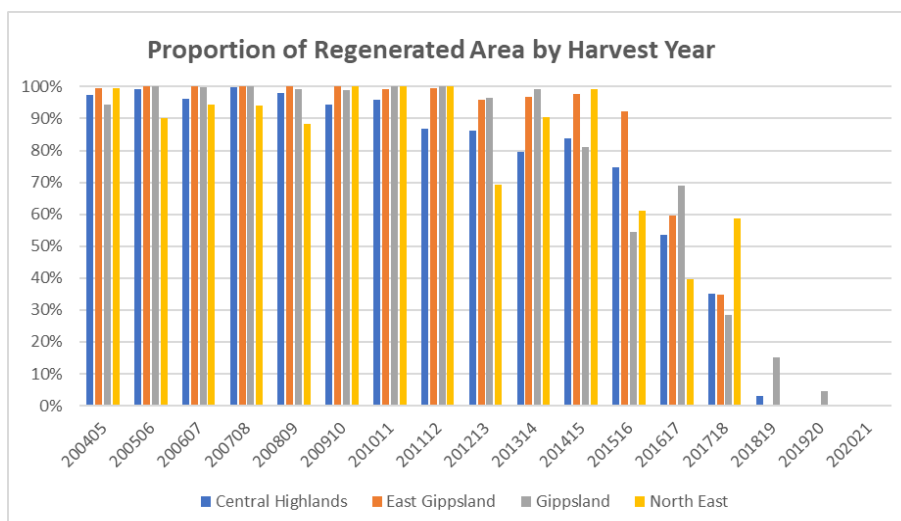
KEY POINTS:

1. VicForests are obliged to regenerate all harvested coupes.
2. 79% of coupes harvested to the end 2019/20 have been successfully regenerated and finalised.

BACKGROUND

3. All coupes harvested prior to 1 August 2004 remain the responsibility of the land manager, now DELWP, to regenerate.
4. VicForests are obliged to ensure that all coupes are regenerated or remain stocked after harvesting to documented standards.
5. It is normal for a harvested coupe to be assessed sometime between 18 months and 30 months after harvesting is completed; hence there is always a time lag in successfully regenerating harvested coupes.
6. Environmental, e.g. frost or drought, or biological factors such as browsing by deer or wallabies, are the primary cause of failure for coupes to regenerate.
7. Active/Finalised coupes by RFA Region and year of harvest.

S. 47B(b)



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ACTIONS
Victorian RFA Major Event Review
Panel briefings

ACTIONS Victorian RFA Major Event Review Panel briefings		
Action No	Request	Who
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		
1.4	<p>Ash and mixed species reseeded/regeneration information –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reseeded programs undertaken following the 2019-20 bushfires. • What does dept understand about previously regenerated areas? Any sampling of trees that shows adequate regeneration from reseeded? Are assumptions used valid or not valid? Stocktake of what was regenerated but not yet reached seeding maturity before fire event occurred? • impacts of fires on coupes/stands of forest which were previously defined as ‘adequately regenerated’ that may no longer be considered to be successfully regenerated, maintaining the natural floristic composition, after fires. • existing process for determining impacts on regenerating forests. • survey of/info on "handed back coupes" and whether they have been burnt. 	DELWP (SFF coordinate)
1.5	Statistics on regeneration of ash and mixed-species after the bushfire to be provided to the Panel broken down by RFA Region (slide 20 of the second presentation).	DJPR (VicForests)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

1.4	<p>Ash and mixed species reseeded/regeneration information –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reseeded programs undertaken following the 2019-20 bushfires. • What does dept understand about previously regenerated areas? Any sampling of trees that shows adequate regeneration from reseeded? Are assumptions used valid or not valid? Stocktake of what was regenerated but not yet reached seeding maturity before fire event occurred? • impacts of fires on coupes/stands of forest which were previously defined as ‘adequately regenerated’ that may no longer be considered to be successfully regenerated, maintaining the natural floristic composition, after fires. • existing process for determining impacts on regenerating forests. • survey of/info on "handed back coupes" and whether they have been burnt. 	<p>This item is complete. Refer to relevant paper “Ash and mixed species reseeded/regeneration”.</p>
1.5	<p>Statistics on regeneration of ash and mixed-species after the bushfire to be provided to the Panel broken down by RFA Region (slide 20 of the second presentation).</p>	<p>Clarification required:</p> <p>DJPR seek the Panel’s clarification as to whether it is seeking that VicForests provide the figures in slide 20 of the resource and modelling presentation cut by RFA region.</p> <p>In parallel, DJPR want to clarify if the Panel would like the figures at points 1, 3 and 4 on slide 20 of the presentation disaggregated by RFA region.</p>
<p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>		

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 September 2021 10:06 AM
To: s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 47F(1) (DJPR)
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Attachments: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi All

Some following up queries from the Panel related to this information request and a possible new request.

- i. Can you please indicate the hectares of Mountain and Alpine Ash that was reseeded by RFA area. See point 4. in the Panel Paper, 11,500 hectares resown.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

- iv. The information provided relates to Mountain and Alpine Ash. Can you please indicate if there is an intent to conduct regeneration activities in impacted mixed species forests.
- v. Point 5 and Point 6 relate to previously regenerated areas. The Panel are seeking to understand the impacts of the 2019-20 fires on sites that had previously been logged, regenerated and handed back to DELWP. Can you please confirm whether any surveys of these sites have been conducted, the impacts of the fire and any regeneration activities that are planned.
- vi. Related to v. above, the date of Mt Delusion was raised with the Panel during consultation and the attached report provided. Given that this example was specifically raised, the Panel are keen to understand what has occurred, in terms of regeneration/monitoring, on this site. Can you please indicate whether any follow up surveys have been conducted at this site and any regeneration activities that have occurred at this site post-bushfires.

Happy to discuss any of the above requests.

Thanks

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 5:34 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>
Cc: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @agriculture.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) (DJPR) <s. 47F(1) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) (DJPR) <s. 47F(1) @agriculture.vic.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) (DJPR) <s. 47F(1) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>
Subject: OFFICIAL: Vic RFAs Major Event Review - Panel information submission-virtual briefing responses - supplementary email [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

The attached panel paper and four attachments provide the response to the action item 1.4 from the online briefing sessions (ash and mixed species reseeded and regeneration). I have sent this item separately due to the larger file size.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1) | Manager Strategic Forest Frameworks
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne
T: **s. 47F(1)** E: **s. 47F(1)** @delwp.vic.gov.au
W: www.delwp.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Information Plan update

- s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
- The Panel wish to include information about the alleged poor regeneration in the Mt Delusion area as a case study in their Report. DELWP noted that the OCR has investigated this matter in the past. PMO requested that any information that DELWP provides on this matter be public facing info that the Panel can use or refer to in their report.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Table 2 – Responses/updates to further information requests

Info plan Ref#	Online briefing Action# (if applicable)	Request	DJPR approach	Relevant links	Status
		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OB-5	1.5	Statistics on regeneration of ash and mixed-species after the bushfire to be provided to the Panel broken down by RFA Region (slide 20 of the modelling and resource presentation).	VicForests'provided response. See OB-5/1.5 PPT (attached) on Regeneration Statistics.
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Documents

1. Can the 2019-20 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report from VicForests be provided to the Panel. This document is not currently on VicForests website.
2. Can the 2020-21 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report also be provided to the Panel. If the Report has not been finalised, can a draft be provided to the Panel, or the CEO summary page and data on net harvest areas by forest and silviculture type, coupes finalised and seeds collected please be provided.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OB-5 request and 1.5 action from VicForests' June online briefing: Statistics on regeneration of ash and mixed-species after the bushfire to be provided to the Panel broken down by RFA Region **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Req #	Figures from slide 20	Response										
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)												
2	Ash coupes that had not been regenerated (240ha) were re-seeded in autumn 2019 and will be subject to normal assessment	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>RFA</th> <th>AREA (HA)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EAST GIPPSLAND</td> <td>14.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GIPPSLAND</td> <td>176.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NORTH EAST</td> <td>61.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>252.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	RFA	AREA (HA)	EAST GIPPSLAND	14.6	GIPPSLAND	176.7	NORTH EAST	61.5	TOTAL	252.8
RFA	AREA (HA)											
EAST GIPPSLAND	14.6											
GIPPSLAND	176.7											
NORTH EAST	61.5											
TOTAL	252.8											
3	Mixed species coupes that had not been regenerated (2,100ha) were Seedtree coupes and will be subject to normal assessment	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>RFA</th> <th>AREA (HA)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EAST GIPPSLAND</td> <td>1,457.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GIPPSLAND</td> <td>144.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1,602.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	RFA	AREA (HA)	EAST GIPPSLAND	1,457.9	GIPPSLAND	144.9	Total	1,602.8		
RFA	AREA (HA)											
EAST GIPPSLAND	1,457.9											
GIPPSLAND	144.9											
Total	1,602.8											

Difference in area between June presentation slides and this response due to:

- recent coupe finalisation data
- recent fire severity layer (an older fire severity layer was used previously)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 11:38 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: OFFICIAL-Sensitive: Information request NEW-12 part vi – Advice on Mt Delusion [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}

Part (vi) of information request NEW-12 sought information about impacts on the previously regenerated area of Mt Delusion – the request is presented in the table below.

We sought advice from Office of the Conservation Regulator (OCR) about any investigations undertaken and of the regeneration of the site post-bushfire.

OCR advises that the Timber Harvesting Compliance Unit (THCU) did conduct an investigation in relation to Mt Delusion and are happy to meet with the Panel to discuss the investigation. The appropriate contact to arrange that meeting is s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

Manager Timber Harvesting Regulatory Strategy | Regulatory Strategy & Permissions
Conservation Regulator | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

M: s. 47F(1) | **E:** s. 47F(1)@delwp.vic.gov.au

Please note that the coupes that were the subject of this investigation are located in Tambo FMA (not East Gippsland FMA) and Mt Delusion was not affected by the 2019-20 bushfire footprint affecting East Gippsland.

Note also that we are currently finalising further information about regeneration/monitoring for NEW-12 which will also provide relevant info on these matters more generally.

Regards,

s. 47F(1)

Ref #	Panel information request
NEW-12	Point 6 relates to previously regenerated areas. (vi) Mt Delusion was raised with the Panel during consultation and the attached report provided. Given that this example was specifically raised, the Panel are keen to understand what has occurred, in terms of regeneration/monitoring, on this site. Can you please indicate whether any follow up surveys have been conducted at this site and any regeneration activities that have occurred at this site post-bushfires.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

NEW-14		Can the 2019-20 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report from VicForests be provided to the Panel. This document is not currently on VicForests website.	See link to PDF in attached document (NEW-14 to NEW-24)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
NEW-15		Can the 2020-21 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report also be provided to the Panel. If the Report has not been finalised, can a draft be provided to the Panel, or the CEO summary page and data on net harvest areas by forest and silviculture type, couples finalised and seeds collected please be provided.	See link to PDF in attached document (NEW-14 to NEW-24)	

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Info plan Ref#	Online briefing Action# (if applicable)	Request	DJPR/VicForests response	Relevant files	Status
<h1>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</h1>					
NEW-14		Can the 2019-20 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report from VicForests be provided to the Panel. This document is not currently on VicForests website.	See link to PDF in attached document (NEW-14 to NEW-24)	<h1>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</h1>	

<p>NEW-15</p>	<p>Can the 2020-21 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report also be provided to the Panel. If the Report has not been finalised, can a draft be provided to the Panel, or the CEO summary page and data on net harvest areas by forest and silviculture type, couples finalised and seeds collected please be provided.</p>	<p>See link to PDF in attached document (NEW-14 to NEW-24)</p>	<p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

T: s. 47F(1) (diverts to mobile) | s. 47F(1)
s. 47F(1) @ecodev.vic.gov.au

djpr.vic.gov.au



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Government of Victoria, Victoria, Australia.


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SUBJECT: Information responding to Panel requests NEW-14 to NEW-24 (excluding NEW-22)

PURPOSE: For Noting

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Independent Panel to the Major Event Review:

- **Note** the information provided in response to the Panel's requests under NEW-14 to NEW-24 (excluding NEW-22).
- **Note** that sections highlighted in green were provided directly to Tony Bartlett by VicForests.

Information plan Reference #	Information request
NEW-14	<p>Can the 2019-20 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report from VicForests be provided to the Panel. This document is not currently on VicForests website.</p>
<p>Annual Allocation Order Compliance Report 2019/20</p> <div data-bbox="284 972 325 1025" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p data-bbox="213 1028 392 1072">VicForests Annual Allocation Order Com</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requirements do not include silviculture system • In 2020, VicForests' Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report was re-named the Annual Allocation Order Compliance Report. 	

Information plan Reference #	Information request
NEW-15	Can the 2020-21 Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report also be provided to the Panel. If the Report has not been finalised, can a draft be provided to the Panel, or the CEO summary page and data on net harvest areas by forest and silviculture type, couples finalised and seeds collected please be provided.
<p data-bbox="213 551 906 584">Annual Allocation Order Compliance Report 2020/21</p> <div data-bbox="284 629 325 678"></div> <p data-bbox="213 685 392 730">VicForests Annual Allocation Order Com</p> <p data-bbox="213 786 292 813">Note:</p> <ul data-bbox="264 824 1453 936" style="list-style-type: none">• requirements do not include silviculture system• In 2020, VicForests' Annual Harvesting and Regeneration Report was re-named the Annual Allocation Order Compliance Report.	

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 47F(1) (DELWP) <s. 47F(1) @delwp.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 November 2021 8:08 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) (DJPR); s. 47F(1) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: MER Info request NEW-12 - regeneration and reseedling [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: NEW-12 - Bushfire Impacts on Previously Regenerated Coupes.docx; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47F(1)

Reference	Panel Request
NEW-12	<p>Follow-up requests regarding information on reseedling/regeneration provided to the Panel in response to information request OB-4:</p> <p>(i) Can you please indicate the hectares of Mountain and Alpine Ash that was reseeded by RFA area. See point 4. in the Panel Paper, 11,500 hectares resown.</p> <p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>(iv) The information provided relates to Mountain and Alpine Ash. Can you please indicate if there is an intent to conduct regeneration activities in impacted mixed species forests.</p>

(v) The Panel are seeking to understand the impacts of the 2019-20 fires on sites that had previously been logged, regenerated and handed back to DELWP. Can you please confirm whether any surveys of these sites have been conducted, the impacts of the fire and any regeneration activities that are planned.

s. 47F(1) | **Manager Strategic Forest Frameworks**
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne

T: **s. 47F(1)** **E:** **s. 47F(1)** [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@delwp.vic.gov.au)

W: www.delwp.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL

VICTORIAN RFAS MAJOR EVENT REVIEW PANEL PAPER

INFORMATION ABOUT BUSHFIRE IMPACTS ON PREVIOUSLY
REGENERATED COUPES

NOVEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: Information request about bushfire impacts on previously regenerated coupes (Information request NEW-12 (part v))

KEY POINTS:

1. The Panel made the following request for information about bushfire impacts on previously regenerated coupes.

Information plan Reference #	Information request
NEW-12	<p>Follow-up requests regarding information on reseeded/regeneration provided to the Panel in response to information request OB-4:</p> <p>...</p> <p>v. Part v...[relates] to previously regenerated areas. The Panel are seeking to understand the impacts of the 2019-20 fires on sites that had previously been logged, regenerated and handed back to DELWP. Can you please confirm whether any surveys of these sites have been conducted, the impacts of the fire and any regeneration activities that are planned.</p>

2. Information on part v of the Panel's request is presented below. This paper is saved on GovTeams in the folder [NEW-12 Reseeding and regeneration](#).

Process for regenerated timber coupes

3. VicForests timber harvesting operations must comply with the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 (Code). Clause 2.6.1 of the Code and part 9 of the [Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria's State forests 2014](#) set out obligations for forest regeneration, including specific stocking standards that the harvest manager (VicForests) must comply with.
4. There is no formal coupe "handback" process following regeneration. Coupes are removed from the TRP once all operations are complete – this is considered "coupe finalisation". Amendments to the TRP are approved by the VicForests Board. VicForests provides an annual list of finalised coupes to the Secretary of DJPR.
5. DELWP remains the land manager for all State forests throughout timber harvesting operations. When harvesting operations conclude, DELWP's management responsibility continues to apply across the entire State forest estate.
6. The Conservation Regulator oversees compliance and enforcement of the Code, including through the Forest Audit Program.

Post fire surveys of previously regenerated timber coupes

7. As advised previously, in response to information request [OB-4 – Reseeding and regeneration](#), DELWP led the Forest Restoration Project, in conjunction with Parks Victoria and VicForests, which successfully collected Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash seed to sow approximately 11,500 hectares of nationally distinctive forests burnt by the 2019-20 fires.

VICTORIAN RFAS MAJOR EVENT REVIEW PANEL PAPER

INFORMATION ABOUT BUSHFIRE IMPACTS ON PREVIOUSLY
REGENERATED COUPES

NOVEMBER 2021

8. As part of the Forest Restoration Project DELWP commissioned an assessment of the impact of the fires on ash forest areas that were under 20 years of age due to fire history or logging history. The assessment is described in the final draft report *Post-fire Ash Forest Recovery – 2020* which has been provided to the Panel along with this paper. Please note the report has not been finalised or published, and some data may be revised in the final report. As per the agreed practice, the Panel should request permission to reproduce specific information from the report.

Regeneration activities for previously regenerated areas

9. The reseeded program of the Forest Restoration Project was a landscape scale response. Timber harvesting areas were included in the landscape sowing program, but the program objective was ecological stocking across a broad landscape. Not all historic timber harvesting areas were resown, particularly if they were relatively small and isolated in terms of fire impact across the landscape.
10. There was inadequate seed to sow all priority 1 areas so a strategic “persistence” layer and operational considerations - such as field assessments where available, polygon shape, size and distribution across the landscape - were used to further prioritise recommended sowing areas. The strategic level “persistence” layer was a combination of modelled high biodiversity values with the outcome of a collaboration between Parks Victoria and The University of Melbourne involving landscape models predicting likelihood of ash persistence across the landscape under climate change scenarios.
11. DELWP has undertaken assessments (established seedling density surveys) of over 150 sown areas of fire ground. These surveys were stratified for elevation, aspect and geographic range, but not for harvested and non-harvested areas.
12. Future regeneration activities will be subject to funding availability.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 13 December 2021 11:57 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: 20211210 to AM from the MER Panel [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: AM Duniam.pdf; Working Recommendations for Min update.pdf

Sorry ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}, should've sent this to you too.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Native Forest Policy
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 13 December 2021 8:43 AM
To: Gaglia, Julie <Julie.Gaglia@agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Correspondence from the Independent Panel - Major Event Review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Native Forest Policy
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Victorian RFAs Major Event Review <vicmerpanel@awe.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 December 2021 11:52 AM
To: Assistant Minister Duniam <AssistantMinister.Duniam@agriculture.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au)>
Subject: Correspondence from the Independent Panel - Major Event Review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Assistant Minister Duniam

Please find attached correspondence from the Independent Panel conducting the Major Event Review into the 2019-20 Bushfires on the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements.

Kind regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Project Management Officer, Major Event Review | Native Forest Policy

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@awe.gov.au

On behalf of

Victorian Regional Forest Agreement – Major Event Review Panel 2021

Dr Gillian Sparkes AM
Panel Member

Katherine Mullett
Panel Member

Dr Tony Bartlett
Panel Member

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ecological Sustainable Forest Management

Impacts on the Implementation of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management

Forest management system

26. That the Victorian Government improve the alignment of zoning systems within the Forest Management Plans, National Park management plans and Bushfire Management Strategies. This process should include coordinated revisions and an improved articulation of the nature of active management strategies required for each zone, to reduce bushfire risk and support the resilience and recovery of forests.

Previously regenerated forests

27. That the Parties undertake a study of the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires on the regenerating mixed species trials within the former Silvicultural Systems Project at Cabbage Tree Creek to improve knowledge on how the different silvicultural systems respond to severe bushfires.
28. That the Victorian Government treat the finalized coupes where regeneration has failed and implement remediation to restore the coupes to their pre-harvest state. The progress should be assessed by the Parties at the next Five-Yearly Review in 2025.
29. That the Victorian Government assess the regeneration status of mixed species forests that have been regenerated in the past 20 years and were subject to high severity fire during the 2019-20 bushfires. This assessment should consider both the condition of the burnt regrowth and the implications for the requirement to maintain natural floristic composition on these sites. The outcomes from this assessment, together with any remedial programs that are implemented should be reviewed by the Parties in the next Five-Yearly Review in 2025.

Long term stability of forests

30. A key finding of the Major Event Review is that the long-term stability of forests is being compromised by repeated short interval severe bushfires. It is recommended that the Parties commit to a comprehensive, long-term research and monitoring program to develop a better understanding of the impacts of repeated short-interval severe bushfires on the long-term stability of its forest ecosystems.
31. That the Victorian Government maintain and potentially expand its capacity to implement remedial regeneration strategies in sensitive forest ecosystems across all public land tenures. This requires processes to quickly and accurately determine the extent of impacts following major events, such as bushfires, as well as maintaining the required technical knowledge, operational capacity and sufficient seed stocks of appropriate species and provenances.

Integrated forest and fire management

32. That the Parties develop an ongoing joint funding program to provide resources and capacity for active forest management in the RFA regions, reflecting the legislative responsibilities of the Parties to protect and manage forest values under a changing climate.
33. That the Victorian Government enhances the implementation of the Cultural Fire Strategy by working closely with all Traditional Owner groups to reintroduce cultural burning practices and provide increased resources to Traditional Owner groups to integrate knowledge of how Fire Knowledge Holders traditionally managed Country and build capacity and capability for improved implementation of cultural burning and cultural practices.
34. That the Victorian Government increase the number of jobs available for Traditional Owners within forest land management agencies, to allow more Traditional Owners to live and work on Country and have active roles in the management of native forests.
35. That the Victorian Government expands an active and adaptive management approach to scale up the implementation of ecological burning on public forests. Further research and development should be undertaken on how to better model reductions in risks to key environmental assets from the implementation of fuel management and ecological burning activities.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Ref: MC21-XXXXXX

Ms Georgie Foster
Executive Director, Policy and Planning
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 500 East Melbourne VIC 8002

Email: georgie.foster@delwp.vic.gov.au

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Australian Government considers that confidence in Regional Forest Agreements is underpinned by a strong regulatory framework in Victoria that identifies and prevents breaches of the Victorian Code of Practice for Timber Production, as well as a Forest Management System that enables a sustainable harvest level to supply timber and forestry products industries.

Recent media reports alleging that VicForests have been harvesting on slopes steeper than permitted and that regeneration standards are not being met, as well as a series of adverse findings about VicForests' pre-harvesting environmental controls are eroding public confidence in Victorian regulation.

In order to maintain Australian Government confidence in the Victorian Forest Management System, I expect Victoria will provide me with information about how the Office of the Conservation Regulator has assessed these allegations, and how this will inform the development of future compliance inspections.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely

s. 47F(1)

Julié Gaglia ✓
Assistant Secretary
Agvet Chemicals & Forestry Branch

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47B(a)

s. 47B(a); s. 47B(b)

s. 47B(a)

s. 47B(a)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 47B(a)

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Department of Environment,
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Ms Julie Gaglia
Assistant Secretary, Agvet Chemicals and Forestry Branch
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Julie.gaglia@awe.gov.au

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

The enhanced VFP supports include the expansion of the Victorian Timber Innovation Fund and the Forestry Business Transition Vouchers program by \$20 million. In addition, \$14 million will be provided to implement new environmental measures. This includes a new coupe regeneration plan, which will increase confidence that regeneration requirements are met before coupes are taken off the Timber Release Plan.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely

s. 47F(1)

Georgie Foster
Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division
Forest, Fire and Regions

19/01/2022

DRAFT**VICTORIAN RFA ANNUAL MEETING 2 - 2022
DRAFT MEETING AGENDA**

LOCATION:	Videoconference via Microsoft Teams		
DATE:	28 March 2022	TIME:	11:00AM-1:00PM
ATTENDEES:	Julie Gaglia, s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 22(1)(a)(ii) , and SECRETARIAT Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) Georgie Foster, s. 47F(1) , s. 47F(1) and s. 47F(1) Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) s. 47F(1) and s. 47F(1) Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)		
CHAIR:	Julie Gaglia		
SECRETARIAT:	DAWE to provide		

ITEM	TIME	Related CH RFA* clause	ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
4. Timber harvesting compliance issues	25 min	35A(c), 40C, 43	Discussion	DELWP	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government response to allegations of non-compliance with respect to Slope and regeneration provisions.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 28 February 2022 10:27 AM
To: Jack Morgan (Industry)
Cc: Gaglia, Julie; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: MER letter and recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: AM Duniam.pdf; Working Recommendations for Min update.docx

G'day Jack

I've attached the letter and recommendations sent late last year.

As a short update, the editing process is taking the Panel/Parties slightly longer than the Panel had hoped. The Parties provided fairly extensive comments a little over a week ago – more extensive than the Panel had expected.

While the Panel is still working towards providing the final by 31 March, I think it's much more likely that it will be 7 April (that timeframe includes two weeks for government departments to review, and a few days for the manuscript to go to be designed).

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Native Forest Policy
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ecological Sustainable Forest Management

Impacts on the Implementation of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management

Forest management system

26. That the Victorian Government improve the alignment of zoning systems within the Forest Management Plans, National Park management plans and Bushfire Management Strategies. This process should include coordinated revisions and an improved articulation of the nature of active management strategies required for each zone, to reduce bushfire risk and support the resilience and recovery of forests.

Previously regenerated forests

27. That the Parties undertake a study of the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires on the regenerating mixed species trials within the former Silvicultural Systems Project at Cabbage Tree Creek to improve knowledge on how the different silvicultural systems respond to severe bushfires.
28. That the Victorian Government treat the finalized coupes where regeneration has failed and implement remediation to restore the coupes to their pre-harvest state. The progress should be assessed by the Parties at the next Five-Yearly Review in 2025.
29. That the Victorian Government assess the regeneration status of mixed species forests that have been regenerated in the past 20 years and were subject to high severity fire during the 2019-20 bushfires. This assessment should consider both the condition of the burnt regrowth and the implications for the requirement to maintain natural floristic composition on these sites. The outcomes from this assessment, together with any remedial programs that are implemented should be reviewed by the Parties in the next Five-Yearly Review in 2025.

Long term stability of forests

30. A key finding of the Major Event Review is that the long-term stability of forests is being compromised by repeated short interval severe bushfires. It is recommended that the Parties commit to a comprehensive, long-term research and monitoring program to develop a better understanding of the impacts of repeated short-interval severe bushfires on the long-term stability of its forest ecosystems.
31. That the Victorian Government maintain and potentially expand its capacity to implement remedial regeneration strategies in sensitive forest ecosystems across all public land tenures. This requires processes to quickly and accurately determine the extent of impacts following major events, such as bushfires, as well as maintaining the required technical knowledge, operational capacity and sufficient seed stocks of appropriate species and provenances.

Integrated forest and fire management

32. That the Parties develop an ongoing joint funding program to provide resources and capacity for active forest management in the RFA regions, reflecting the legislative responsibilities of the Parties to protect and manage forest values under a changing climate.
33. That the Victorian Government enhances the implementation of the Cultural Fire Strategy by working closely with all Traditional Owner groups to reintroduce cultural burning practices and provide increased resources to Traditional Owner groups to integrate knowledge of how Fire Knowledge Holders traditionally managed Country and build capacity and capability for improved implementation of cultural burning and cultural practices.
34. That the Victorian Government increase the number of jobs available for Traditional Owners within forest land management agencies, to allow more Traditional Owners to live and work on Country and have active roles in the management of native forests.
35. That the Victorian Government expands an active and adaptive management approach to scale up the implementation of ecological burning on public forests. Further research and development should be undertaken on how to better model reductions in risks to key environmental assets from the implementation of fuel management and ecological burning activities.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Impact of Bushfire on Regeneration

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. DELWP assumed responsibility for the re-seeding of all harvested areas that had been successfully regenerated by VicForests
3. Ash coupes that had not been regenerated (240ha) were re-seeded in autumn 2019 and will be subject to normal assessment
4. Mixed species coupes that had not been regenerated (2,100ha) were Seedtree coupes and will be subject to normal assessment