



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry**



This Quick Reference Guide supports the **State Specific Guideline** for **Victoria** (the Victorian Guideline). These documents may be used by processors of raw logs from Victoria to facilitate their due diligence process in accordance with the [Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012](#) and the [Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012](#).

## **Timber harvesting regulation in Victoria**

Different regulations apply to timber harvesting depending on whether the forest being harvested is located on public or private land. Victoria's laws regulate:

- where and when timber harvesting can occur, and
- appropriate standards to govern how timber harvesting is conducted.

[Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 \(as amended 2022\)](#) (the Code) is the key instrument for regulating timber harvesting operations in all Victoria's forests. The Code was most recently revised on 6 June 2022. Within the Code are the [Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria's State Forests 2021](#).

### **Public land**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is the environmental regulator for commercial timber harvesting activities in Victoria's State forests.

VicForests has responsibilities for managing timber harvesting on public native forests:

- In eastern Victoria, timber from areas identified in an [Allocation Order 2013 \(amended in 2014 and 2019\)](#) and associated map created under Part 3 of the [Sustainable Forests \(Timber\) Act 2004](#) is made available to VicForests to sustainably harvest and sell. VicForests prepares a [Timber Release Plan](#) to identify the forest coupes it plans to harvest.
- In western Victoria, VicForests manage the harvest where timber harvesting is permitted, harvest areas are recorded in a [Timber Utilisation Plan](#).

### **Private land (including leased or licensed Crown land)**

#### *Plantations*

Plantation development and harvest is regulated by the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) under the [Planning and Environment Act 1987](#). The VPP specifies that all timber production activities must comply with the Code. These activities are regulated by the relevant local government under their local planning scheme and, if applicable, the conditions of any planning permit.

Timber harvesting must also be consistent with a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) which is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

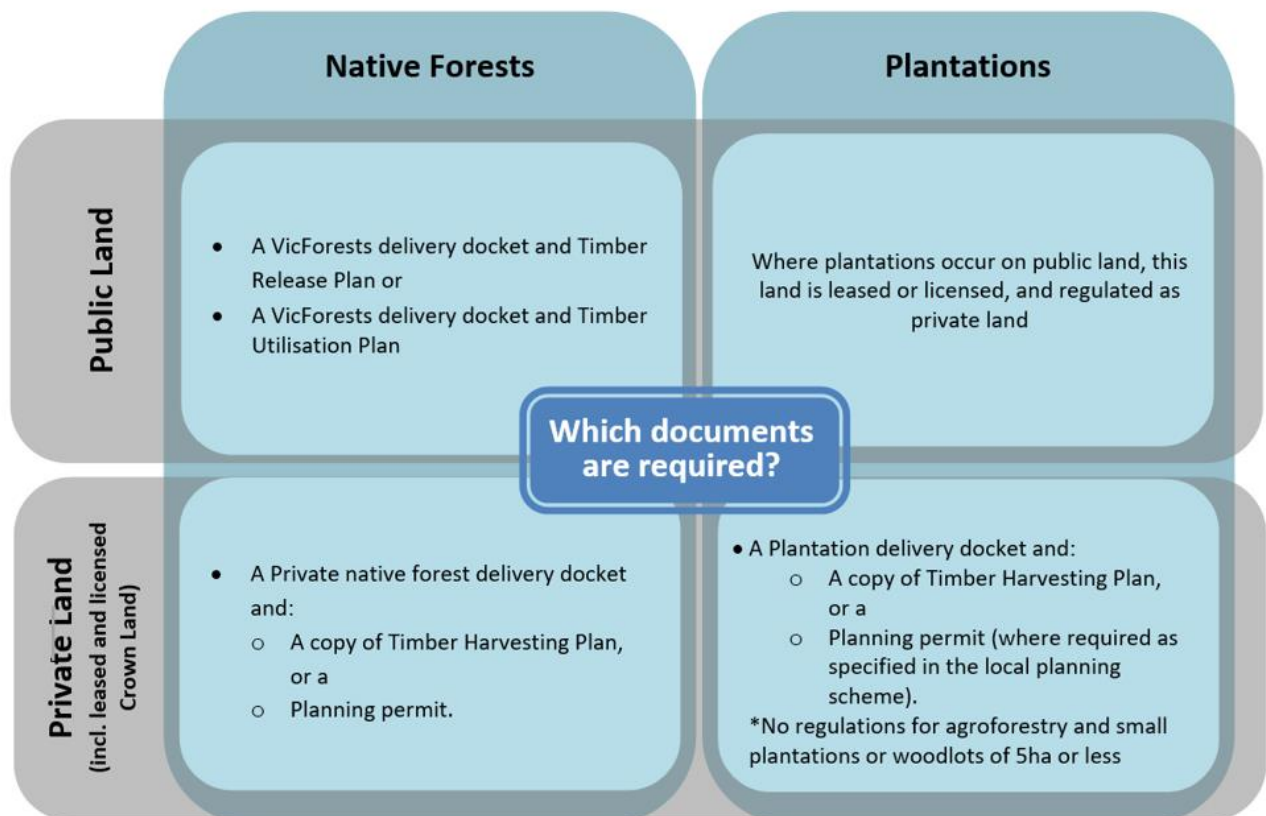
There is no regulation covering agroforestry and small plantations or woodlots of 5 hectares or less. This means that timber can be legally harvested and sold on a small-scale basis and there may be no official documentation.

### Native forests

The harvesting of native forests on private land is also regulated by local government as part of the land use planning system. Native vegetation laws and regulations apply.

A planning permit is required from local government, and a THP prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Code must also be submitted to local government. Local government may place additional requirements on the THP to meet local planning objectives.

### Summary of documents to demonstrate legality of timber from Victoria



### Who should I contact for further information?



Australian Government  
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