



Tuesday 19 July, 2012

### **Response to the DPI's Review of the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004 – Discussion Paper**

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide comment into the 'Review of the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004 – Discussion Paper' process. We acknowledge there is a broader public submission process slated for July.

As the state's foremost environment and nature conservation groups, we are very concerned about and interested in the Review.

We hold a range of viewpoints – both shared and individual – about the efficiency and security of the instruments of the Act as they relate to resource availability for the logging and woodchipping industries. We also hold high levels of interest in the scope for the Act to deliver sustainable and best practice natural resource management.

It should be noted that, with various emphases, we work and advocate for the protection of Victoria's environment, and are opposed to unsustainable logging and woodchipping.

We do therefore agree that there are many areas in which the Act could and should be improved to tighten regulations and truly ensure world's best forest management practice, which would involve properly considering a range of forest values beyond logging and woodchipping.

We are however unable to respond to the Discussion Paper, as invited to, due to a number of shared concerns.

We note that DPI will use feedback provided on the Discussion Paper to develop a draft SFTA Review report.

Given the wide ranging scope of the questions raised in the Discussion Paper about how to reform the Act, we consider the very limited time provided to deliver input to be insufficient (with one deadline provided giving groups a total of three business days to respond, and another eight days).

We believe that to review the Sustainable Timber Forests Act in isolation from other Acts is not best practice, and is flawed from both resource security and environmental sustainability and protection perspectives.

We are not confident that the process itself is indeed intended or structured such that input from a range of stakeholders will be utilised to truly and democratically improve the Act.

Again, we note our individual and separate groups' rights to comment on the draft SFTA Review as part of the scheduled public consultation period.

Yours sincerely,

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