

FIBRE AND WOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENT: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to section 26B of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Council to carry out an assessment of the viability of and capacity for, current volumes and potential fibre and wood supply areas in state forests¹ in the Central Highlands, North East, Gippsland and East Gippsland regional forest agreement areas.

The purpose of the investigation is to:

- (a) Identify the current, and currently projected, fibre and wood supply to industry from the specified area. The Council is required to take into consideration current contractual supply commitments;
- (b) Identify the current and likely future constraints to this supply;
- (c) Report on public land use and management; and
- (d) Report on the viability of and capacity for current and potential wood and fibre supply over appropriate time scales.

VEAC is required to consult with technical and industry experts to gather and confirm source data, and to document any relevant caveats to this data.

The Council is required to consult with the Forest Industry Taskforce, including providing the taskforce with information on progress by 28 February 2017 in line with the reporting requirements for the Conservation Values of State Forests Assessment.

The Council must take into account relevant state or federal regulation and legislation.

As specified in section 26D of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001* the Council must confer with any Department or public authority which may be affected by the provision of the assessment including VicForests, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; and the departments and public authorities must give practicable assistance to the Council in preparing an assessment.

The Council must report on the completed assessment as soon as practicable but no later than 28th April 2017.

¹ For the purpose of this assessment, state forest is defined as the areas of public land depicted as General Management Zone, Special Management Zone and Special Protection Zone in the maps accompanying the regional forest agreements as updated from time to time and expressed in the DELWP forest zoning data set (FMZ 100) as at the time of commencement of the investigation.