

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015

Mr Don Saunders  
Chair  
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
PO Box 500  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Via email: [veac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### **Statewide Assessment of Public Land**

Dear Mr Saunders,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment into the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) Statewide Assessment of Public Land.

As you would be aware, the forest and wood products industry plays an important role on public land in Victoria, both in terms of timber production from State forests and leased and licensed public land for timber plantations. It is also an integral part of the Victorian economy, contributing \$6.5 billion in sales and service income annually and employing 21,000 Victorians whilst supporting a further 40,000 to 50,000 local jobs.

VAFI, as the peak body for the forest and wood products industry in Victoria, is involved in a number of governmental processes regarding public land. It is essential that this process be integrated with all other governmental processes that are currently in operation and to establish and communicate a sense of hierarchy and commonality between these processes. In particular, I refer to the proposed Industry Taskforce, led by Minister for Environment, Lisa Neville.

More generally, I look forward to working with you and the Council as a member of the Community Reference Group and to discuss issues such as adequate resourcing, and monitoring and evaluation of reserves and ecological values to ensure the forest and wood products industry remains vibrant and sustainable.

Yours sincerely,



**Tim Johnston**  
Chief Executive Officer