

## Media Release

11 November 2021

### Case dismissed

*Victorian Supreme Court throws out litigation against VicForests*

Yesterday, the Victorian Supreme Court threw out litigation from *Kinglake Friends of the Forest Inc v. VicForests*. The Victorian Forest Products Association (VFPA) welcomes yesterday's ruling, which provides greater clarity for our native forest industry.

Justice Richards dismissed the case one hour into the hearing. The decision was based on the recently announced amendments to the [Timber Code of Practice](#), which clarified ambiguities introduced in the 2014 version of the Code and its supporting Management Standards and Procedures.

With the case dismissed and associated injunctions removed, VicForests can commence harvesting in the affected coupes once the Code comes into force on 17 November 2021.

“Post-harvest surveys have shown that VicForests' harvesting and regeneration practices better protect Victoria's wildlife while providing our community with the wood and fibre products we need. Species, including the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum and Greater Glider, are now commonly found immediately within or around harvest areas within a few short years after harvest,” said Deb Kerr, CEO of VFPA.

“Foresters are passionate about their work and carefully balance the production of timber with the protection of wildlife in our multiple-use forests. This active and adaptive management approach is critical to the plants and animals in our forests.”

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“With yesterday’s decision, VFPA calls on the remaining green lawfare cases before the courts to seriously contemplate the wisdom of pursuing these further,” concluded Ms Kerr.

### **About**

The Victorian Forest Products Association (VFPA) represents all elements of the value chain from both sustainable harvesting of plantations and multiple-use natural forest resources. VFPA is a policy development and advocacy group which represents the interests of Victoria’s sustainable forestry. We collaborate strongly with other industry bodies to ensure the best outcomes for forestry in general and our members more specifically. Our charter provides autonomy to manage state issues. We collaborate with the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) on any issues that transcend state borders and have national implications.