



Victorian
Forest
Products
Association

2022 Victorian Election Platform

OUR FUTURE GROWS ON TREES

Victoria is Australia's premier forestry state

Forestry, through its harvested wood, timber, and paper and pulp products, is at the heart of Victoria's circular economy and essential to achieving net zero by 2050. Wood will be required for bioenergy, to house our growing population, to provide packaging and hygiene products and to build our clean, low carbon future.

Our challenges:

- Global timber demand will increase by **170% by 2050¹**, while supply will continue to be constrained
- Victoria's population is estimated to reach **11.2 million by 2056**, of which 9 million will live in Melbourne²
- A housing timber deficit today of 21%, forecast to **increase to 41% by 2050³**
- **Timber scarcity** and escalating cost of building Victoria's homes
- Static plantation estate and the Victoria Labor Government's decision to end native forestry by 2030 means Victoria is facing a supply-demand cliff
- The economics of 30-year **tree crops cannot compete** with the short-term profitability of other land uses
- Plantation **shortfall of 150,000 ha**, equivalent to just 0.7% of Victoria, when land availability is tight, and its cost is escalating
- Being smarter about **using all our wood resources** to support home grown jobs and economic returns
- To recover an additional **1 million tonnes** of paper and cardboard for reprocessing in Victoria
- Managing our landscape to reduce the significant impacts to our public and private forests from increasingly **severe climate driven bushfires**
- **Investment in innovation** to replace our reliance on carbon-emitting products like plastic with timber substitutes, and
- Decarbonising Victoria's economy by investing in the circular economy to achieve net **zero by 2050**.

Recent Victorian elections have been bereft of a vision, policies, and programs to support Victoria's forestry industry – an industry that provides the primary input to around 115,000 business across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne. VFPA is seeking this from the party that forms Government come November.

The next Victorian Government will need to provide a safe, stable, and supported investment environment for forestry that will underpin the attractiveness of Victoria from growing trees through the wood supply chain in regional Victoria and across metropolitan Melbourne.

¹ 2020 Gresham House, Global Timber Outlook 2020, GHGTO2020FINAL.pdf (greshamhouse.com)

² 2022 Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee, Inquiry into environmental infrastructure for growing populations, p11 LAEPC_59-02_Inquiry_into_Enviro_Infrastructure.pdf (parliament.vic.gov.au)

³ 2022 FWPA, Future market dynamics and potential impacts on Australian timber imports, Interim Report

This election, VFPA is seeking support for initiatives that will turbocharge Victoria's modern forest industries, create jobs, secure timber supply and help Victoria meet its 'net-zero by 2050' goal.

Our Home-Grown Timber Future

Become self-sufficient in wood products, supporting jobs in Victorian processing and supply chains

Critical to achieve this objective is:

- \$300M contribution towards a \$3B plantation expansion program, prioritising investment in the Green Triangle and Murray Hub regions, including leveraging the Federal Government's \$86M plantation investment program
- \$50M towards establishing hardwood sawlog plantations in Gippsland
- Consistent with the Regional Forestry Agreements, commit to a sustainable native forestry industry by overturning the decision to phase out native forestry, which is essential where appearance and longevity are important wood traits
- Implement a Victorian Wood and Wood Fibre Encouragement Policy for government procurement, and across public infrastructure and social housing programs
- \$4M over four years for an education and awareness program supporting the industry's Victoria Wood, I Wood campaign

Delivering our Climate Future

Our public and private forests and harvested wood products are the natural, sustainable, and renewable low carbon solution

Critical to achieve this objective is:

- Recognition, support and commitment to the important role of plantation and native forestry in sequestering carbon through both trees and the harvested products, including the monetisation of carbon through carbon markets
- A commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation of our forests through First Nations-led, landscape-scale active ecological and fire management of Victoria's public forests, with timber salvaged for processing
- Commit to appointing a forestry representative to the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council





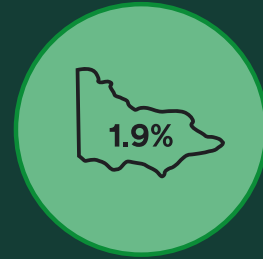
386,600 ha plantations and 367,000 ha multiple-use native forests



At 22%, the largest plantation estate in Australia



0.04% of our native forests and 5% of plantations harvested annually



Plantations cover just 1.9% of Victoria or 3.4% of the agricultural land



There is no waste as all parts of the tree have a use



All members are certified



15 million trees planted annually - every tree harvested is replaced



Over 5000 wood, pulp, chemicals, cellulose, and food products



Supports up to 115,000 Victorian businesses



Victoria produces 7.1 million m3 logs. 24% of the nation's logs and more than any other state



\$634 m gross value of logs - 25% of the nation's gross value of logs



\$7.6 billion direct sales - 33% of the national primary and secondary manufacturing



Largest exporter of wood products at 5.3 million m3/annum



Up to 50,000 jobs across the supply chain



67% of paper and cardboard is recovered



Our forests and wood products store more than 2000 Mt carbon