

Our Ref:  
Your Ref:

17<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Mr Peter Farrell  
Land and Fire Area Manager, North East  
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Dear Peter,

**Notification of proposed change to the 2006/07 – 2010/11 Timber Release Plan (TRP) for Central, Benalla/Mansfield and North East Forest Management Areas (FMAs)**

I am writing to inform you VicForests is seeking a change to the 2006/07 – 2010/11 TRPs for Central, Benalla/Mansfield and North East FMAs.

During 2009 one new TRP for North East FMA and two changes to the 2006-07 TRPs for Central and Benalla/Mansfield FMAs were approved by the Secretary to the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The three processes were required to respond effectively to the February 7 wildfire and provide sufficient coupes for future operations.

It has been an aim of VicForests for some time to limit the number of TRP approval processes to one per year. This aim has not yet been achieved. I hope that this will be possible in 2010.

The proposed change to the 2006/07 – 2010/11 TRPs for Central, Benalla/Mansfield and North East FMAs is to include additional fire affected coupes and provide additional green coupes. The salvage operation conducted by VicForests reached its peak in November. During November drying of fire killed trees reached a point where internal defects made log products unfit for many of their intended purposes. VicForests has alternative arrangements in place to enable salvage operations to continue in a diminished capacity for some time to come. VicForests has contractual commitments to supply products to some customers that cannot be sourced from fire killed stands. As such, it is necessary for VicForests to undertake harvesting in green stands and areas where trees have not been killed by fire.

The proposed change will:

- Add 65 new coupes; and
- Amend 14 previously gazetted coupes to ensure VicForests can legally harvest each planned area.

These are approximate numbers and intended to indicate the scale of the change. The actual numbers of new coupes or amendments to existing coupes may vary.

I am planning a single submission on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 of all coupes requiring DSE Regional Review. The following table outlines the number of proposed coupes by VicForests District and amendment type:

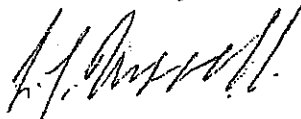
District	Anticipated Number of Coupes	Expected Amendment Type
Mansfield	2	Boundary Amendment/addition of Coupe Driveway
Mansfield	1	New Coupes
Alexandra	2	Boundary Amendment/addition of Coupe Driveway
Alexandra	18	New Coupes
Toolangi	2	Boundary Amendment/addition of Coupe Driveway
Toolangi	20	New Coupes
Marysville	6	Boundary Amendment/addition of Coupe Driveway
Marysville	20	New Coupes
North East	2	Boundary Amendment/addition of Coupe Driveway
Broadford	6	New Coupes

I will arrange a meeting with Stephen Deed, key Regional DSE staff and staff from DSE Forest Regulation Branch during January to discuss the proposed TRP change and timelines.

A schedule of coupes will be provided to Stephen Deed on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 along with the Allocation Order Reconciliation that includes the Exceptions Report. Hardcopy and softcopy TRP documents will be forwarded at that time.

The VicForests Central Highlands TRP coordinator for this amendment will be Joshua Chikuse who is based at Healesville office. I will be assisting him during the process. If you have any queries on this process, please do not hesitate to contact him on 59699021 or 0400393917.

Yours sincerely



**Lucas Russell**  
Senior Forester Tactical Planning  
Central Highlands Region

CC: Lachlan Spencer, Tactical Planning Manager  
Joshua Chikuse, VicForests Central Highlands TRP Coordinator  
Stephen Deed, TRP Coordinator