

FORESTS  
COMMISSION  
VICTORIA



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Date 6 July 1982

Mr A Hodgson  
Chief  
Division of Forest Management

HARDWOOD HARVESTING AND REGENERATION PLAN - TOOLANGI DISTRICT

In response to your request for comments on the above plan, and taking into account the draft document entitled 'Habitat Management Instructions - Toolangi Forest District', I attach herewith comments by Dr G C Suckling of this Division.

I agree with Dr Suckling that before the harvesting and regeneration plan is finalised, a joint field inspection of the defective stands with poor growth potential ought to be made, and the requirements for Leadbeater's possum in the Toolangi District discussed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F G CRAIG', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

F G CRAIG  
Chief  
Division of Education & Research

ATT

HARDWOOD HARVESTING AND REGENERATION PLAN - TOOLANGI DISTRICT

Comments by Dr G C Suckling, Mountain Forest Research Station,  
Sherbrooke - 29.6.82.

I have now read the plan and the draft habitat management instructions forwarded by the District Forester. Although I had several comments on the plan, these have mostly been overcome by prescriptions in the habitat management instructions. Taken together, the plan and instructions are generally sound and encompass all necessary precautions at this stage of our knowledge of habitat requirements. My only further comment relates to the conservation of Leadbeater's possum.

Section 1.2 of the plan states that 4000 ha of the ash type forests is either unstocked or poorly stocked. The prescriptions concerning sources of supply state that 'defective stands with poor growth potential, especially those on sites which are capable of much better growth, shall be given a high priority for clearfelling and regeneration' . . . Unfortunately these stands are often important wildlife habitats, particularly for Leadbeater's possum, *Gymnabelideus leadbeateri*. The Toolangi ash forests could be the most westerly occurring habitat for Leadbeater's possum, and these populations may be isolated from more easterly populations. Thus there is an obligation for forest management to allow for retention of adequate habitat for this species. Surveys should be conducted to determine the distribution of Leadbeater's possum in the District, and management plans should be flexible enough to allow for retention of specific habitats which may be discovered in future.

In the meantime, I consider it advisable to retain some suitable areas of unstocked and poorly stocked ash forest. I would be pleased to offer further comment on this issue following field inspection of the sites.