

IT'S TIME TO WIND UP VICFORESTS!

Dear Premier Jacinta Allan and Treasurer Tim Pallas,

We, the undersigned groups, welcome the announcement that the declaration of VicForests as a state business corporation has been revoked.

With logging in state forests finally coming to an end this year, VicForests has outlived its purpose and needs to be abolished as a priority – in an orderly manner – conscious of VicForests' ongoing and outstanding liabilities.

VicForests has systematically breached the public's trust and abjectly failed Victorians on every measure – economically, socially and environmentally.

In one of the most scandalous examples of gross public mismanagement in this state's history, VicForests has:

- Haemorrhaged millions of dollars in public funds.
- Broken the law repeatedly, without apology or show of remorse.
- Decimated our iconic native forests which are on the verge of ecological collapse.
- Destroyed the habitat of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants.
- Logged in a way that studies have found increases bushfire risk and severity.
- Put the quality and security of Melbourne's water supply at risk.
- Reduced the amount of carbon stored in forests and released millions of tonnes of emissions.
- Failed to regenerate massive areas of the forest estate, leaving the state and Traditional Owners with an enormous on-going land management burden.
- Spread disingenuous claims about the sustainability of its operations that have had significant impact on regional workers, families, businesses and the community.
- Extended its degradation of forests to some of Australia's most fragmented landscapes in western Victoria.
- Conducted covert surveillance on a Victorian citizen who dared hold them to account.

The reputational, ecological and socio-economic damage caused by VicForests has no place in our State. The commercially driven extraction of timber and logs from native forests and bushland areas has lost its social licence, including under the guise of public land management.

The restoration and conservation challenge ahead provides a huge opportunity to generate meaningful, on-going employment. Future land management regimes must be open, transparent and underpinned by robust science.

We call on your leadership to end this sorry saga, wind up VicForests, and partner with Traditional Owners, environmental and wildlife protection organisations, scientists and the broader community to secure enduring protections for all of Victoria's globally significant native forests for the enjoyment of future generations.

If the Government can rise to this occasion and finally act in the best interests of all Victorians – a historic, enduring and celebrated environmental legacy awaits.

Yours sincerely,

Animals Australia
for a kinder world



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Bendigo Climate Alliance



DEEP CREEK LANDCARE



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AUSTRALIA



FNCV
Understanding Our Natural World



Friends of the Earth Melbourne



Grassy Plains Network



MARIBYRNONG RIVER & WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION



National Parks Australia Council
Working together for nature conservation areas



RIDDELLS CREEK LANDCARE



Victorian Mountain Tramping Club



WERRIBEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

