

The RFA and Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management

Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) is the management of forest on all land tenures to maintain the overall capacity of forests to provide goods, protect biodiversity, and protect the full suite of forest values at the regional level. One of the key objectives of each RFA is to ensure that forests on and off reserves are managed sustainably.

As shown in the following table, Victoria's systems and processes for ESFM involve a range of measures including:

- legislation and policies;
- planning;
- implementation;
- information, monitoring and evaluation; and
- review and improvement.

The RFA ESFM provisions include:

- development and monitoring of sustainability indicators
- publishing future reports of audits of compliance with the Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production
- implementing a continuing quality assurance program within three years
- publishing of regional prescriptions for timber production, the Central Highlands Forest Management Plan and management plans for National and State Parks by the end of 1998
- the development of Statewide guidelines for the Management of Cultural Heritage Values in Forests, Parks and Reserves
- encouraging private forest owners to comply with the Code of Forest Practice for Timber Production
- research priorities and priorities for the management of vegetation communities and endangered species
- Victoria reaffirming its commitment to review pricing and allocation policies for government owned commercial forestry operations.

Forest Management Systems and Processes in Victoria

<p>1. Legislation and Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Treaties, Conventions and Initiatives ▪ Commonwealth Government Legislation ▪ National Policies ▪ State Legislation ▪ State Policies
<p>2. Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Strategic Planning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Forest Agreements ▪ Land Use Planning - Public Land ▪ <i>Forest management planning - public land</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest Management Plans (State forest)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Victorian Code of Forest Practices ▪ Regional prescriptions ▪ Sustainable Yield ▪ Wood Utilisation plans ▪ Forest coupe plans ▪ Log grading ▪ <i>Park planning</i> ▪ Park Plans ▪ <i>Private land</i> ▪ Land Use Plans ▪ Education and cooperative programs ▪ Native Vegetation Retention Controls ▪ Code of Forest Practices for Private Land ▪ Waters of Victoria State Environment Protection Policy ▪ Flora and Fauna Guarantee ▪ Plantation Management ▪ Private forestry strategy ▪ <i>Fire management planning</i> ▪ Code of Practice for Fire Management ▪ Regional Fire Protection Plans ▪ <i>Flora and Fauna planning</i> ▪ Flora and Fauna Guarantee ▪ Recovery Plans ▪ <i>Cultural values</i> ▪ Aboriginal places ▪ Historic places ▪ <i>Exploration and Mining</i> ▪ Environmental Effects Statements ▪ Planning Permits ▪ Work Plans ▪ Environmental Review ▪ Committees ▪ <i>Other Plans</i>
<p>3. Implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Accountabilities and Responsibilities</i> ▪ <i>Resourcing of Implementation</i> ▪ <i>Programs</i> ▪ <i>Operational Controls over implementation programs including control of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ timber harvesting in State forests ▪ fire management operations ▪ other activities in State forest ▪ operations in National Parks ▪ other operations on public land ▪ activities on private land ▪ <i>Documentation and Records Keeping</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Communication and Education</i> ▪ <i>Knowledge, skills and training</i>
4. Information Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest information ▪ Monitoring implementation of plans and programs ▪ Monitoring and evaluating condition of the forest environment ▪ Auditing of compliance with regulations and controls ▪ Corrective action
5. Review and Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of the Environmental Management System ▪ Research and Development