



# Department of Sustainability and Environment

**TO:** Peter McHugh, Regional Manager Forest Management Gippsland  
**FROM:** Ewan Waller, Manager Forestry Victoria, Gippsland East  
**SUBJECT:** Submission From Victorian Rainforest Network relating to the Proposed 2004/05 East Gippsland Wood Utilisation Plan

**REF:** GP-CF/14/0109  
**DATE:** 25 March 2004

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## PURPOSE

1. To forward a number of queries from the Victorian Rainforest Network (VRN) for your consideration and response.

## BACKGROUND

2. The Victorian Rainforest Network have prepared a submission in response to the public comment period for the Proposed 2004/04 East Gippsland Wood Utilisation Plan (Attachment 1).

## COMMENT

3. Their submission contains a number of queries that are not directly related to the Proposed WUP or to timber harvesting activities.
4. Forestry Victoria has responses to the majority of their questions however there are a number that require policy related responses:

**The VRN formally requests what monitoring and reporting actions are currently being carried out by the DSE?**

**What is the methodology for the “ongoing quality assurance program” currently used? How does this quality assurance program assess the effectiveness of rainforest protection strategies?**

**Is the quality assurance program open to public scrutiny? If so, how? If not, why?**

**Has the required 5 yearly RFA review been conducted and public comment sought in accordance with the FMP and RFA performance evaluation provisions?**

Forestry Victoria have not attempted to answer these questions but have advised the VRN that their question have be referred to yourself to be addressed.

## RECOMMENDATION

5. That you consider these questions posed by the VRN and provide a response as appropriate.
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12. **Ewan Waller**
13. Manager Forestry Victoria
14. Gippsland East

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