

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
NOTICE OF DECISION UNDER SECTION 16G

In accordance with section 16G of the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**, I, Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Environment, and I, Ros Spence, Minister for Agriculture have:

- (i) considered the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee regarding Salvage Logging of Burnt Native Forests as published on the Internet at <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-list> and in the Government Gazette on 22 July 2024 and
- (ii) decided not to recommend to the Governor in Council that the potentially threatening process described in Column 1 of Table 1 in the Schedule to this Notice is specified in the Processes List for the reasons that it does not meet the criteria shown in Column 2 of that Table for the reasons described in Column 3 of the Table.

SCHEDULE

In Table 1 in this Schedule—

1.1 means Criterion **1.1** of Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020 which provides that the potentially threatening process poses or has the potential to pose a significant threat to the survival of two or more taxa.

1.3 means Criterion **1.3** of Schedule 3 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020 which provides that any other circumstance that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Committee that section 16 applies to the potentially threatening process.

Table 1

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>
<i>Item</i>	<i>Criteria not satisfied</i>	<i>Reasons criteria not satisfied</i>
Salvage Logging of Burnt Native Forests	Criterion 1.1	<p>Salvage logging of burnt native forests was historically a commercial timber harvesting activity undertaken by VicForests. However, Victoria’s forest policy has recently changed significantly. These changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The cessation of commercial native forest timber harvesting within the Allocation Order area (primarily in eastern Victoria) from 1 January 2024. This flowed from the Government’s decision on 23 May 2023 to cease commercial native forest timber harvesting from that date. b. The Sustainable Forests (Timber) Repeal Act 2024 was passed on 25 June 2024 and commenced operation on 1 July 2024. That Act removed the legal framework established by the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004 for commercial timber harvesting by VicForests in State Forests.

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>
<i>Item</i>	<i>Criteria not satisfied</i>	<i>Reasons criteria not satisfied</i>
	Criterion 1.3	<p>c. VicForests ceased operating on 30 June 2024 and was abolished by the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Repeal Act 2024 on 1 July 2024.</p> <p>Because of these reasons the potentially threatening process described is very unlikely to occur in Victoria in the future, and therefore cannot by definition pose, or have the potential to pose, a significant threat to the survival of two or more taxa.</p> <p>As salvage logging of burnt native forests is very unlikely to occur in Victoria in the future, it follows that the risk of subsequent disturbances due to the impacts of salvage logging are also very unlikely.</p>

Dated: 24 / 09 / 2024



Steve Dimopoulos MP
Minister for Environment

Dated: 10/9/24



Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Agriculture