

The Victorian Government is committed to the promotion of a better quality of life for current and future generations by ensuring our economy, our society and our environment develop in a sustainable manner.

In partnership with the community, Victoria will be recognised as a leader in sustainable forest management.



The Department of Sustainability and Environment's Parks and Forests Division is responsible for the sustainable management of Victoria's State forest. This includes the conservation of flora and fauna, protection of water catchments and water quality, the provision of timber and other forest products on a sustainable basis, the protection of landscape, archaeological and historic values, and the provision of recreational and educational opportunities.

## More Information

To obtain further information:

Visit our website: [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au), select *Forestry*, then *Sustainable Forest Management*.

Contact the Sustainable Forest Management Group:

- Email: [SFM.Group@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:SFM.Group@dse.vic.gov.au)
- Telephone: +61 (0)3 9637 8272
- Write to:  
Sustainable Forest Management Group  
Department of Sustainability and Environment  
PO Box 500, East Melbourne

Published by the Victorian Government  
Department of Sustainability and Environment July 2005

© The State of Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment 2005

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

ISBN 1 74152 252 8

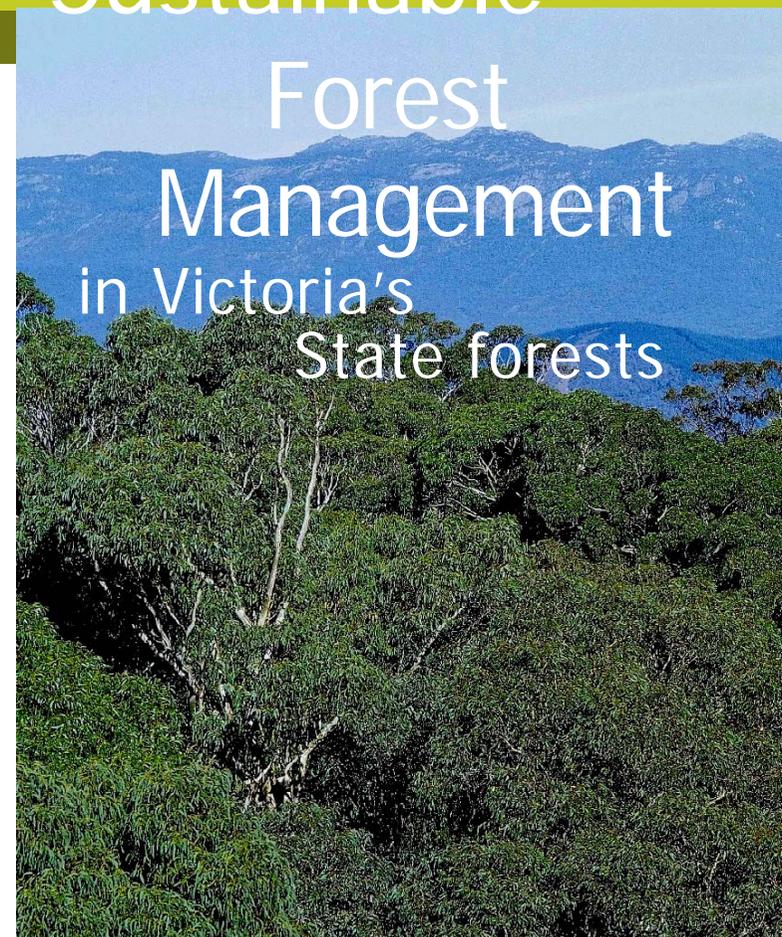
Authorised by the Victorian Government 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne.  
Printed by [insert printer's name and address]

For more information contact the DSE Customer Service Centre 136 186

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

[www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

# Sustainable Forest Management in Victoria's State forests



# Protecting our forests for future generations

## Victoria's Sustainable Forest Management Initiatives

### What is Sustainable Forest Management?

Our forests have a range of uses, values and services that need to be carefully managed to ensure that they are available for both current and future generations.

To demonstrate our commitment to being a world leader in sustainable forest management, we will measure and report our performance against internationally recognised standards.



### Who is responsible for Sustainable Forest Management in Victoria's State forests?

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) has responsibility for the sustainable management of Victoria's State forests.

VicForests, a new state-owned corporation, is responsible for the harvest and sale of Victoria's valued timber resources. Both agencies will work together to achieve sustainable forest management.

These responsibilities are set out in the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004. Through this Act, Victoria is leading the way in sustainable forest management.

### How is Sustainable Forest Management achieved?

The first step towards sustainable forest management is to set our goals and recognise our responsibilities. DSE has developed an **Environmental Policy for Victoria's State forests** that reinforces the need to consider our forests from an environmental, social and economic perspective. The Environmental Policy reflects international, national, state and organisational commitments to sustainable forest management.

We must also systematically identify and manage any environmental impacts from forest management activities. This is done through implementing an **Environmental Management System (EMS) for State forests**. Monitoring our everyday activities will help us to continually improve the management of our forests.

To let us know where we have improved and, more importantly, where improvements can be made, we will measure our performance against a set of scientifically sound **criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in State forests**. Our sustainable forest management initiatives will reflect the internationally recognised requirements of the Montreal Process (see facing panel).



### How will I know if Victoria's State forests are being sustainably managed?

To improve openness and accountability in the management of Victoria's State forests, we will report our performance annually against the Montreal Process criteria and indicators.

**Victoria's State of the Forests Report** will be released every five years and will also demonstrate performance against the Montreal Process criteria and indicators. This report provides an opportunity for Victoria to make a clear statement about its ecologically rich forest estate and high standards of forest management.

**Independent auditing** of the Code of Forest Practice, our EMS and forest certification will also let you know that our forests are being sustainably managed.

### Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

Australia is one of 12 countries, including Canada, and the USA, that are using Montreal Process criteria and indicators to describe, assess and evaluate progress towards sustainable forest management. The Montreal Process provides seven broad criteria to describe the forest values that society seeks to maintain. These are:

1. Conservation of biological diversity
2. Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems
3. Maintenance of ecosystem health and vitality
4. Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources
5. Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles
6. Maintenance and enhancement of long-term socio-economic benefits
7. An effective legal, institutional and economic framework.