

29 July 2021

## **SUBMISSION: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR TIMBER PRODUCTION**

Food and Fibre Great South Coast is the representative body for food and fibre on the Great South Coast. The Great South Coast is Victoria's largest food and fibre region, producing \$2.3 billion in agricultural output annually. We are the home to Australia's forestry green triangle and work closely with the Green Triangle Forestry Industries Hub (GTFIH). The food and fibre industry accounts for 60% of the region's GDP and 21.6% of total jobs in the region. Our region spans south west Victoria, taking in the beautiful coastlines of the Great Ocean Road to the inland majesty of the Southern Grampians.

We are 103,900 people, over 11,000 businesses, achieving a gross regional product of \$5.5 billion. Our vision is for the Great South Coast to be Australia's most productive, innovative, and sustainable food and fibre production region.

The 2021 proposed variation of the Code of Practice for Timber Production is welcomed by Food and Fibre Great South Coast (FFGSC) and represents a good start to amending the primary regulatory document relevant to timber harvesting in Victoria. This amendment needs to address all issues within the Code to protect and grow jobs in regional communities from future disruption, employee stand downs and a diminishing wood supply.

Victoria's forest and wood products manufacturing industry is Australia's largest and employs thousands of Victorians across the state. The Victorian economy benefited from more than \$7 billion by contributions from the timber industry in the last financial year, that provides around 21,000 jobs in Victoria, mainly in rural and regional areas.

Timber workers in regional Victorian local community areas are filled with a great sense of pride to be a part of a sustainable industry that supplies many wood fibre products used by Victorians every day. The changes to the Code need to create certainty that the industry has a strong future.

A concise Code of Practice with clear and enforceable guidelines ensuring effective forestry strategies that are environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable is required. Changes to the code need to be clear and focus on science and evidence so that the timber industry can operate safely, with policy, certainty, and creating confidence to invest in a sustainable timber industry.

FFGSC works in partnership with the GTFIH and, along with them, fully endorse the Victorian Forest Products Association (VFPA) extensive submission on this matter and strongly encourage ongoing engagement with the GTFIH throughout this review.



**Georgina Gubbins**



**Natalie Collard**



Chair

Executive Officer

**Contact** Natalie Collard, Executive Officer, Food and Fibre Great South Coast Inc, [natalie@southcoastfoodfibre.com.au](mailto:natalie@southcoastfoodfibre.com.au)  
ABN: 9117273979