



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

## **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

#### Forest (Licences and Permits) Regulations 1999

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Forests (Licences and Permits) Regulations 1999.

The reason for and the objective of the proposed Regulations is to provide for the responsible and sustainable management of commercial activities in State forests in a manner consistent with safeguarding environmental values and forest infrastructure. This objective is currently achieved by the Forests (Licences and Permits) Regulations 1988. These regulations will be revoked by operation of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994** on 19 December 1999.

The proposed Regulations will promote this objective through the responsible management of the harvesting of forest produce from State forest and the use of reserved forest for cattle grazing, agistment and bee farming. An important feature of the proposed Regulations are the proposed prescribed licence terms and conditions relating to environmental matters. These terms and conditions include requirements that any damage to forest infrastructure or pollution of a forest watercourse is rectified by the licensee at the licensee's expense and to the satisfaction of the Secretary of DNRE ("the Secretary"); that any building or other improvement to the land only be constructed with the permission of the Secretary and in accordance with the directions of the Secretary; that no seed be sown, fertiliser spread or cultivation attempted without the authority of the Secretary; and that no poison, insecticide or agricultural spray be used without the authority of the Secretary.

The licence terms and conditions which address these matters are intended to protect natural environmental values and maintain the integrity of forest infrastructure such as roads and bridges. The proposed Regulations also

prescribe the manner in which applications for licences are to be made.

The RIS provides some possible alternatives to the proposed Regulations including a Code of Practice and a program of public education. The RIS states that the benefits of the proposed regulations, including the sustainable harvesting of forest produce and preservation of environmental values, are largely benefits which cannot be delivered by a program of public education or a voluntary Code of Practice. The benefits of the proposed Regulations are therefore considered to outweigh the alternatives as described in the RIS.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from the Information Centre, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne 3002. Telephone (03) 9637 8325 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. or on the Internet at <http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/ris/>

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations. All comments must be in writing and must be sent to Mr Terry Kempton-Hall, Project Officer, Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne 3002 by no later than 5:00 p.m., 8 December 1999.

Dated: 5 November 1999

SHERRYL GARBUTT  
Minister for Environment and Conservation

**Gazette Services**

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