

# Responsible Fibre Sourcing. Sustainable paper.



- Less than 0.1% of Victoria's forests are annually harvested and then regrown using local seed.
- All areas that meet the scientific criteria for Leadbeater's Possum habitat are protected from harvesting.
- Australian Paper does not accept any old growth wood. Period.
- Australian Paper only takes lower grade wood which would otherwise be left on site or sent overseas as woodchips.
- Almost two thirds of Australian Paper's fibre comes from plantations and recycled sources.
- Australian Paper is FSC® certified, Australian Forestry Standard certified and PEFC certified.



## Australian Paper

- Australian Paper manufactures the majority of the recycled and carbon neutral office paper which is sold in Australia each year.
- Australian Paper does not own any forest assets but sources all fibre from responsibly managed external suppliers.
- Australian Paper is third party certified under both the Australian Forestry Standard (globally recognised by the PEFC) and the FSC® and is the only local manufacturer of office paper.
- Almost two thirds of our total fibre needs are met from plantation wood, recycled pulp and wastepaper from kerbside collections.
- The remainder is sourced through VicForests which is a Victorian Government enterprise responsible for the sustainable harvest and commercial sale of wood from state forests.



## Sourcing

Almost 90% of Victoria's native forests are not available or suitable for timber harvesting.

- Native timber harvesting in Victoria is one of the most strictly regulated industries in Australia operating within a detailed legal framework.
- Victoria has 7.8 million hectares of native forest. 4.8 million hectares or 60% is protected in national parks and reserves.
- Less than 0.1% of Victoria's native forests are harvested each year. After harvesting, forested areas are replanted and regenerated with local species.
- All of the wood supplied to Australian Paper for use at the Maryvale Mill is a by-product of harvesting for high quality sawn timber.
- If this wood were not supplied to Australian Paper, it would be left on site as waste or become export woodchips.



## Wood Harvesting

### Carbon and Sustainable Wood Harvesting.

- The Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency recognises that deforestation accounts for almost 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the bulk of which come from developing countries.
- Sustainable forest management, including timber harvesting, is NOT deforestation.
- VicForests regenerates the forest in all areas where harvesting takes place to ensure the trees grow back following its operations.
- Regenerating forests store carbon from the atmosphere while, at the same time, timber and paper products continue to store carbon for the life of the product.



## Water Catchments

### Melbourne's water catchments.

- Melbourne's water catchments cover 157,000 hectares across the State and public access to these areas is tightly restricted to protect water quality.
- The majority of Melbourne's water comes from areas where no timber harvesting occurs and public access is not permitted.
- VicForests is permitted to harvest timber in a very small percentage of Melbourne's catchment areas - under strict environmental guidelines.
- Harvesting currently takes place in approximately 180ha, or just 0.1% of these catchments, each year.
- These operations are audited on a regular basis by Melbourne Water and DSE. Independent auditors also assess these operations as part of the Australian Forestry Standards certification process.
- All old growth Ash forest in Melbourne's catchment areas is fully protected.
- The greatest threat to water yield and quality in Melbourne's water catchments is from fire.



The mark of responsible forestry



## Species Protection

### Protecting flora and fauna.

- Of the 7.8 million hectares of native forest in Victoria, almost 90% are unavailable or unsuitable for timber harvesting operations.
- VicForests' staff undertake field surveys in all areas prior to harvesting to detect potential Leadbeater's Possum habitat.
- Where an area meets the criteria for Leadbeater's Possum habitat an exclusion zone is put in place and no timber harvesting operations are permitted in that area.
- An extensive conservation reserve system also exists within the Central Highlands region designed to protect Leadbeater's Possum habitat and other important environmental features. No timber harvesting is permitted within these reserves.
- The best known areas of Leadbeater's Possum habitat not already in the reserve system were included as part of 30,000 hectares of new reserves in 2008.
- In addition to this reserve system, VicForests inspects areas proposed for harvesting to identify the presence of hollow bearing trees and determine whether these meet key habitat criteria for the species.
- The retention of habitat trees, seed trees and buffer zones, along with the creation of special protection zones are also designed to protect native flora and fauna.
- As a further safeguard, Australian Paper does not accept old growth trees or sawmill residues from old growth timber for its operations.



## References

- Victorian Government State of the Forests Report 2008
- Victorian Government Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- VicForests' Sustainable Forest Management System
- Harvesting in Water Catchments: Managing Resources Sustainability (Victorian Government 2008)
- VicForests Sustainability Report 2009
- Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency ([www.climatechange.gov.au/government/international/redd.aspx](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/international/redd.aspx))