



Department of
Premier and Cabinet

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M16/5707

Mr Ken Deacon
Convenor
Rubicon Forest Protection Group
c/- Rubicon Road
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Dear Mr Deacon

Thank you for your letter to the Premier about logging in the Rubicon State Forest. The Premier has asked me to reply on his behalf.

You may be aware that the Victorian Government has committed to a consensus approach on the future of Victoria's forest industries. To achieve this, it has supported the establishment of a Forest Industry Taskforce, including representatives from the forest industry, unions and conservation groups, to find common ground and make recommendations to government. The government considers this to be the best way to resolve long standing conflicts between the different interests, and create durable solutions for both the communities that live in forest areas and for the environment.

The terms of reference developed by the Taskforce considers the future of forest industries, protecting jobs, continuing economic activity and protecting native plants and animals. The government has endorsed the Taskforce's terms of reference and is providing secretariat support for its work.

The Taskforce is due to provide consensus recommendations for government to consider by 30 June this year. I have referred your submission to the Taskforce for its consideration.

I trust this information is helpful. Thank you again for writing to the Premier about your concerns.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Minchin
Director
Energy, Resources and Environment

cc: Mr Dick Ford, Director, Forest Industry Taskforce Secretariat