



REGIONAL WOODFLOW PLAN – CENTRAL VICTORIA

INDICATIVE WOODFLOWS: 2010 - 2029



Summary

A Regional Woodflow Plan for Central Victoria Indicative Woodflows 2010-2029

Prepared by Hamish Crawford, Cailum Pty Ltd

For

Central Victorian Farm Plantations Inc.



Highlights

- ◆ Around 22% of the Central Victorian region is forested, with wood production focussed on an expanding plantation estate.
- ◆ Plantation area is now 60,211 ha, an increase of over 10,000 ha since 2005.
- ◆ The area of hardwood plantations (31,683 ha - predominantly *Eucalyptus globulus*) now exceeds the area of softwoods (28,528 ha – almost all *Pinus radiata*).
- ◆ Over 60% of the regions plantations have been certified to internationally recognised forest management standards.
- ◆ Anticipated log harvests from the regions plantations over the next 5 years will exceed 6.1 million tonnes, made up of hardwood pulplogs (2.9 million tonnes), softwood sawlogs (1.9 million tonnes) and softwood pulplogs (1.3 million tonnes).

Background

In 2006, Central Victorian Farm Plantations Inc., with funding provided through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality via the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, produced a Private Forestry Action Plan for the Central Victorian Region. The plan identified a number of Actions; development of a Regional Woodflow Plan was identified as a high priority need. Central Victorian Farm Plantations Inc. engaged Cailum Pty Ltd to prepare the regional woodflow plan.

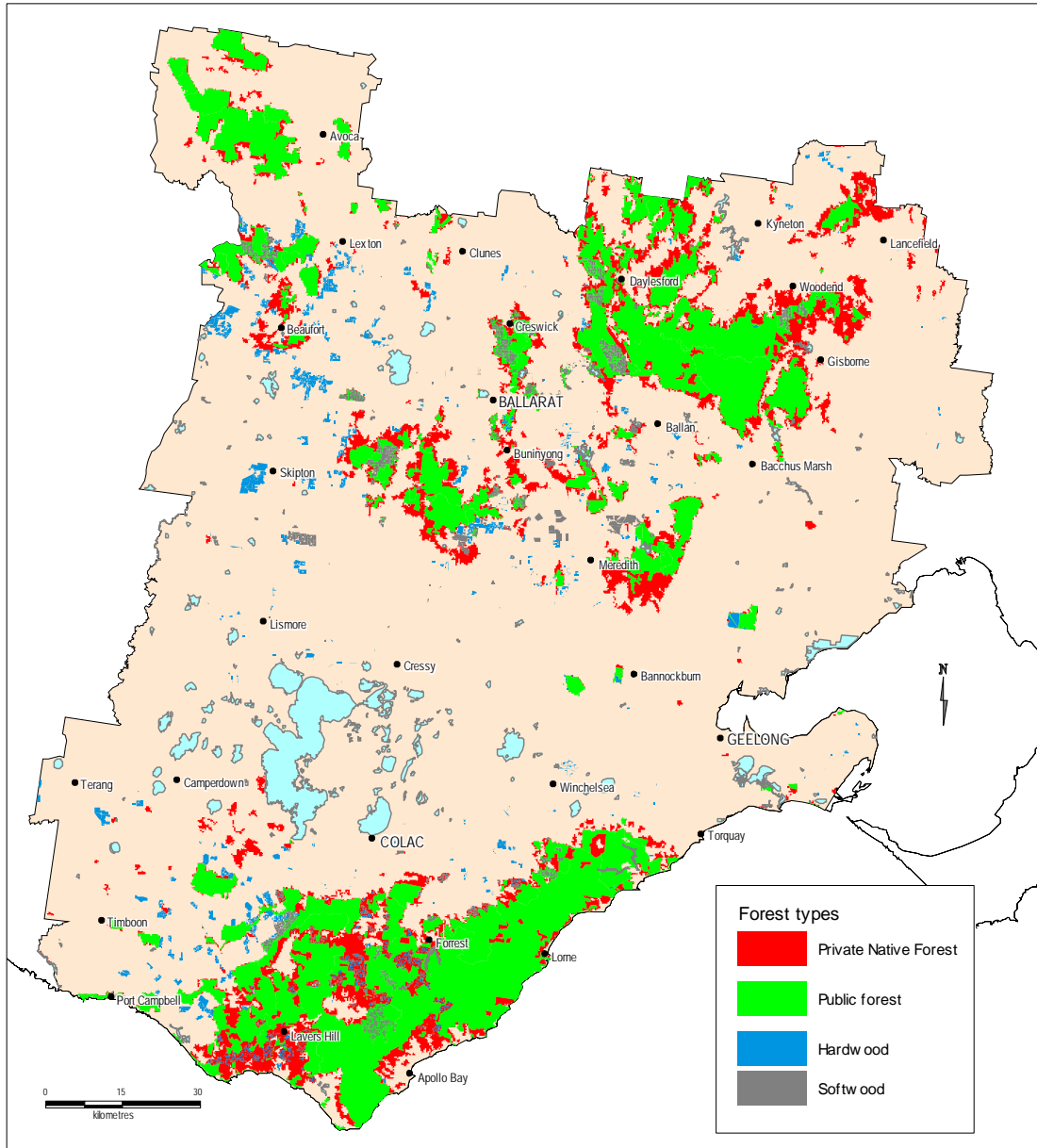
CAILUM PTY LTD
PO BOX W37 BALLARAT WEST VIC 3350
AUSTRALIA
ABN: 97 193 975 243

t: +61 3 5338 4393
f: +61 3 5334 4460
e: hamish@cailum.com.au
w: www.cailum.com.au

The region and its forests

The woodflow plan covers the Central Victorian PFDC Region, which is based on local government boundaries and includes the municipalities of Ballarat, Colac Otway, Corangamite, Golden Plains, Greater Geelong, Hepburn, Hume, Macedon Ranges, Melton, Moorabool, Pyrenees, Surf Coast and Wyndham.

Forest areas within Central Victoria¹



Around 530,000 ha or 22% of the region is forested. While all woodflows originate from forests, management of forests for wood production occurs in only a small percentage (less than 15%) of the regions forests.

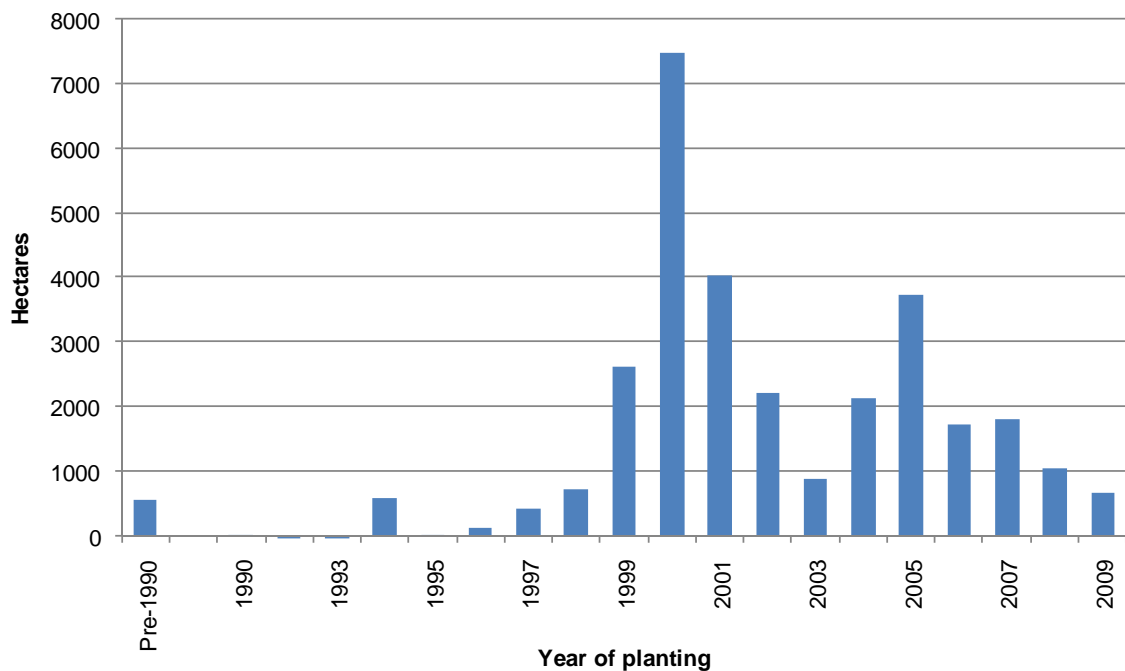
¹ Map includes data sources: © The State of Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2009. Reproduced by permission of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Plantations

The current total area of plantations in the CVFP region is estimated at 60,211 ha, an increase of over 10,000 ha since 2005.

Of the total plantation estate 28,528 ha may be classified as softwood - these are predominantly planted with *Pinus radiata* (27,704 ha). The total area of softwood plantation in the region has decreased slightly since 2005 (29,419 ha). However, it is the hardwood plantation sector that has seen the most change in recent years. Over the last 10 years, the region's hardwood plantations have increased in area from 4,378 ha in 1998, to 20,228 ha in 2005 to 31,683 ha today.

Hardwood plantation age-class distribution – Central Victoria



Native forests

The total area of public forest in the region is around 321,000 ha, which comprises parks and reserves (174,000 ha), state forests, including forest parks (173,000 ha), and other public land (12,000 ha). Wood production is an approved management activity only in certain areas of state forests and forest park, in accordance with approved management plans. The only authorised wood production from native forests in the Central Victorian region is for domestic and commercial firewood, minor products (posts, poles and chop logs) and tea-tree collection.

In addition to public native forest, the CVFP region contains around 140,000 ha of private native forest. These forests are quite dispersed and are generally in small holdings. Little is known of the condition or standing volumes of timber in the region's private native forest, or the management intent of the forest owners. However, the extent of these forests suggests that they may provide a substantial future resource for timber production.

Woodflow

In Central Victoria, transport of logs from the forest is undertaken by truck and utilises the region's road transport network. Transport distances can be large (often in excess of 100km) and can commence on minor and local access roads, before gradually making their way onto main arterial roads.

Just as the plantation resource is dispersed throughout the region, so are the processing centres to which harvested logs and chips are first transported. Central Victoria supports a substantial timber industry; there are three main processing centres in the region - Geelong, Colac and Ballarat - with a number of smaller mills operating away from these centres that provide an important adjunct to regional processing capacity

Although forward planning can be undertaken at the enterprise level, to guide it in its operations, woodflow plans at the industry level are an accumulation of individual company plans and expectations. They provide a snapshot of expected flows into the future, current at the time of their production.

Wherever possible, the woodflow plans developed by individual companies were used in the preparation of industry level aggregates - these account for over 75% of the woodflow modelled forest estate.

The Woodflow Plan presents anticipated wood production from forests across the region for the period 2010 to 2029, aggregated into flows over 5-year periods: 2010-2014, 2015-2019, 2020-2024 and 2025-2029.

Woodflows are presented in two formats:

- ◆ Tabular data for aggregate production of wood over each 5-year period from plantations within a particular municipality (local government area).
- ◆ Spatial thematic mapping showing production bands at the administrative locality level – i.e. the anticipated level of production of wood from plantations in each locality over each 5-year period. This spatial mapping also identifies potential haulage routes and processing centres across the region.

Anticipated harvest of all softwood and hardwood logs (tonnes) – 2010-2029

Municipality	2010-2014	2015-2019	2020-2024	2025-2029
Ballarat	141,497	68,449	77,295	117,800
Colac Otway	2,123,476	1,598,602	1,668,475	1,351,009
Corangamite	503,881	908,493	454,719	1,067,804
Golden Plains	596,106	363,963	462,051	548,344
Greater Geelong	16,037	1,722	1,476	18,145
Hepburn	544,796	182,244	172,745	342,867
Hume	-	175	524	-
Macedon Ranges	160,454	160,123	108,093	70,548
Melton	-	-	-	-
Moorabool	342,991	409,327	446,807	576,566
Pyrenees	1,565,137	475,571	384,657	1,657,549
Surf Coast	145,829	74,980	188,507	52,225
Wyndham	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6,140,204	4,243,648	3,965,348	5,802,856

Total anticipated production across the region in the first period 2010-2014 is shown below. The main report presents similar maps for other planning periods and for individual log products.

Anticipated harvest by locality, all log products – 2010-2014

