

Sustainable, renewable, certified local Victorian hardwood timbers, desired by consumers, come from a very, very small area of Victoria's vast native forest estate. The active sustainable management of this public native resource is positive: *economically* (providing a wide range of exquisite hardwood products), *socially* (supporting rural workers & communities and metropolitan manufacturers), and *environmentally* (helping tackle climate change).

Forest Ownership

Victoria is blessed with over 7.64 million hectares of native forest - a vast estate which is owned by the Victorian public and managed on our behalf, by the Victorian Government through:

- o VicForests, who undertake the sale, harvest and regeneration of timber resources from areas of Victoria's State forests set aside by the Government for wood production, and
- o Parks Victoria, who provide management services to the State and its agencies for parks, reserves and other public land.

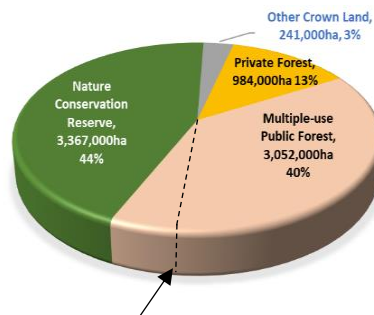
Forest Area & Reserves

Victoria's most environmentally important forest areas are protected in the 3.367 million ha of Victorian Nature Conservation Reserve that can never be harvested. All Victorian Old Growth Forest is now protected within the reserve system or excluded from harvesting areas. **No Old Growth resource is harvested for timber products.**

Around 40% of the forest area is Multiple Use Public Forest (3.052 million ha) that the Government manages for a range of forest values, including wood harvesting for consumer products.

Harvestable Area

VicForests harvests and regenerates approx. 3,000 hectares per annum of the Multiple-use Public Forests for hardwood timber for consumer products; which is only 0.04% of the 7,645,000ha total Victorian native forest area.



Only 0.04% harvested annually
equivalent to 4 trees in 10,000

Every tree harvested is regrown, by law, to provide sustainable, renewable, local Victorian hardwood timbers in perpetuity - for our use, our kids use, and for all future generations.

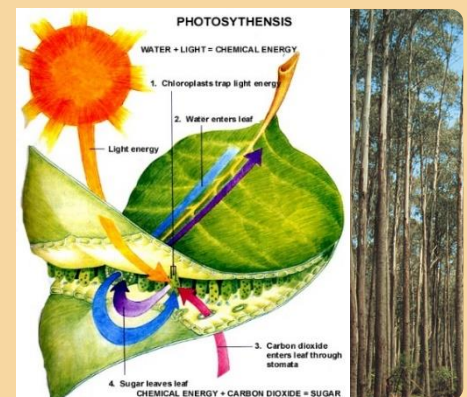
Forest Certification

Victorian hardwood forests managed for timber production are independently certified by the *Responsible Wood Certification Scheme* which is underpinned by two Australian Standards and endorsed by the PEFC, the global sustainable forest management system.

Working the Resource - the Carbon Benefits

From an environmental and forest health perspective, actively managing Victoria's forest estate for sustainable timber production is highly beneficial.

- o Through photosynthesis young, actively growing forests absorb high levels of CO₂ storing the carbon in the wood and releasing the oxygen we breathe, by comparison over-mature forests release more carbon dioxide annually than they absorb.



- o If the trees are harvested during their growing phase and used in timber products, then the carbon that has been stored remains locked up within the products.
- o After harvest, new trees are then regrown allowing the vigorous carbon storage process to continue.

From a carbon and Greenhouse perspective:
"Grow More Trees – Use More Wood!"

