



TIMBER TOWNS VICTORIA

A Local Government Association

Draft Illegal Logging Prohibition Rules 2024

Timber Towns Victoria Submission to the Draft Rules

About Timber Towns Victoria.

Timber Towns Victoria welcomes the Federal Government's consultation process on new draft rules that complement the national illegal logging reforms, to allow for industry feedback.

Timber Towns Victoria (TTV) is an incorporated Victorian Local Government Association, representing the interests of municipal councils in relation to forestry.

TTV's primary function is to provide a forum for local government to address the management of forests and forest industries and their impact on our local communities.

TTV is an effective advocacy body that represents many towns and cities across Victoria.

Our effectiveness is based on being a peak organisation and acting as a voice for these communities advocating to both the Federal and Victorian State Government on policy and legislation that impacts the timber industry.

Timber Towns Victoria response to the draft rules.

The draft Illegal Logging Prohibition Rules 2024 set to replace the current Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012 couldn't have come at a better time with the current regulation expiring on 1 April 2025.

The draft rules have been created in consultation with industry experts and a wide group of stakeholders, streamlining the whole process for importers and processors of raw logs and timber products, simplifying the due diligence requirements for these businesses.

Whilst we understand that the onus is on the importer or processor to ensure compliance of this precious commodity, the new draft rules will allow businesses to operate more efficiently providing a 12-month window relying on previous risk assessments and risk mitigation research, removing the repeated due diligence on repeated imports or processing of identical products and raw logs.

The legislative reforms to the Act in the Bill before Parliament are also welcomed, adding extra elements to ensure compliance is adhered to and checks are thoroughly completed to best practice at the time of the due diligence process.

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Timber Towns Victoria seeks clarification.

Although we are pleased with the changes made through the draft rules on the illegal logging laws, Timber Towns Victoria wishes to seek clarification from the Federal Government on the following items:

1. We know that illegal logging laws apply to the domestic product as well as the imported product. In regard to the clearing and harvesting of vegetation on private land that is allowable in the applicable state jurisdiction, the landowner and processor both want to be sure that this cant be interpreted as illegal logging. Both parties (landowners and processors) need assurance that the harvesting of these trees is legal; and if the trees planted on private land are done so with the intention of future harvesting, that they have a future harvest guarantee to do so.
2. What is Federal Government's current position on biosecurity on the importation of logs and timber products?

The communication on this topic from the Australian Government is to be commended, as feedback we have received is that there has been a great depth of information via the regular news updates, and the webinar on this topic was well presented and thought out in an easy to understand way for the audience.

Many thanks to the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fishers and Forestry in reading the Timber Towns Victoria submission to the Draft Rules. We look forward to further discussion on the topics to be clarified above.

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