

As usual, the environmental lobby and their academic fellow travellers are attempting to undermine one more element of the native timber harvesting industry – this time salvage logging (The money or the trees 4.2.10)

Three quarters of the sawn timber from Victoria's native forests finds its way into Melbourne homes, so unless we refrain entirely from the use of timber in the first place, this has to be sourced from somewhere. Harvesting burnt stands makes environmental and commercial sense: that is why salvage harvesting is practiced the world over.

Harvesting in this state accesses less than 1% of the state commercial forest each year, and a much greater area is permanently set aside in parks and reserves. Professor Lindenmayer's assertions ignore the long standing Code of Forest Practice, which ensures that our best practice methods in forestry are observed and improved. They also contradict well-established forestry research findings and ignore the practical experience of more than a century of closely monitored forestry practice.

Contrary to Green councillor Dunn's assertions, there is a strong demand for sawlogs in the district and a continuing need to provide Maryvale's Australian Paper operation. These sawlog and pulplog operations, together with the work directly generated by VicForests, deliver thousands of jobs in Eastern Victoria, including Healesville. They do it in a manner which is fully sustainable, environmentally responsible and commercially sensible.

Harvesting burnt timber, enabling green stands to be banked for subsequent years makes it even more so.

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