COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY
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3621
Allen Grant

Mr Tim Anderson
Wombat Forest Society
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Daylesford
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Dear Mr Anderson

Thank you for your submission of 13 March to Mr Ross Dalton, Departmental Liaison Officer to the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, the Hon John Anderson MP. As the matters you raise fall within the responsibilities of Forests Division, Mr Dalton has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The current timetable for the West Victoria RFA proposes completion during 1999, with the main component of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) process commencing in late 1998 or early 1999. Recognition of the importance of native forests to regional environmental values is an integral part of the RFA process, which will address the full range of environmental and heritage, and economic and social values of forests.

In the meantime, Commonwealth and Victorian officials are investigating options for extending the commitments made in the Interim Forest Agreement for interim protection of values that may be required for a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system for those parts of the State not subject to an RFA.

It should be noted that protection measures for environmental values are addressed through Victorian statutory obligations and Statewide forest planning processes, which have been accredited by the Commonwealth at a Statewide level as providing for ecologically sustainable forest management as part of the Central Highlands RFA.

I understand the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment has also written to you separately addressing the range of issues raised in your submission.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Yours sincerely

Allen Grant
Forest Assessment Branch
Forests Division

28/4/98