

**Appendix 1. VicForests' response to recommendations raised in the 'Audit of timber harvesting in Victoria's State forests: Report on the 2017-18 Forest Audit Program'.**

Recommendation	VicForests response and proposed actions to address recommendation
<p><b>V1: High priority</b></p> <p>VicForests should thoroughly review its approach to the design, construction and rehabilitation of waterway crossings to significantly improve their compliance with regulatory requirements. This review should consider the recommendations included in Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> and discussed in the 2016-17 FAP audit report (Jacobs, 2018a).</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> VicForests has finalised a first draft of a new roading and waterway crossing manual. VicForests has sought advice from engineers and forest roading experts to assist in the development of a standardised manual to help ensure consistent design, construction and rehabilitation of roads and waterway crossings.</p> <p>VicForests is also undertaking a review of its coupe monitoring record process and is introducing additional steps to ensure effective and consistent monitoring of road drainage features. Additional training of foresters on the use of mitigation materials (Silt socks, rock guards, silt traps etc) will be undertaken.</p>
<p><b>V2: Moderate priority</b></p> <p>As part of its review of waterway crossing and in-coupe road construction and during coupe monitoring, VicForests should ensure culvert outlets comply with regulatory requirements and do not discharge onto unprotected embankments or from above the downstream surface elevation.</p>	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalise first version of new Roading Manual.</li> <li>2. Provide training for relevant staff on new roading manual, erosion control measures available and additional drainage monitoring as part of CMR process.</li> <li>3. Continue to work with DELWP on required standards for crossing removal and rehabilitation.</li> </ol> <p><b>Due Date: 30/06/2019</b></p>
<p><b>V3: Moderate priority</b></p> <p>VicForests should continue to review its approach to regeneration burns to identify and implement opportunities to reduce unintended impacts in unharvested buffer areas.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> VicForests is continuing research as part of an ongoing Modified Burning project.</p> <p>As part of VicForests FSC 2020 Project, we are developing alternative silvicultural approaches. This includes a focus on reducing the application of high intensity regeneration treatments and developing additional protection measures for high conservation values and unharvested areas.</p> <p>Regeneration Burns are undertaken under the DELWP framework and any changes to these requirements would need DELWP input, consultation and approval.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue modified burning research project.</li> <li>2. Continue planned development of Harvest and Regeneration systems.</li> <li>3. Consultation with DELWP to ensure ongoing alignment of goals and maintaining regulatory compliance.</li> </ol> <p><b>Due Date: 30/12/2019</b></p>

Recommendation	VicForests response and proposed actions to address recommendation
<p><b>V4: Moderate priority</b></p> <p>VicForests should construct drainage on all in-coupe roads prior to any temporary or longer-term suspension of harvesting. Completion of construction and compliance with MSP drainage requirements should be confirmed in coupe monitoring records at suspension or closure.</p>	<p><b>Response: Build on previous work commenced on</b> a register of road infrastructure and incorporate into spatial layer to track location, status of roads and crossings in the landscape.</p> <p>VicForests is also undertaking a review of its roading spatial layer and coupe monitoring process.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure CMR captures appropriate drainage requirements when harvesting is finalised or suspended temporarily.</li> <li>2. Amend actual road spatial layer to have attribute fields that can track road status and future requirements.</li> </ol> <p><b>Due Date: 30/08/2019</b></p>