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Submission into the proposed changes to the Code of Practice for Timber Production

The Victorian Government's 'community consultation' process has increasingly become a bogus process that has almost no credibility with community groups. Detailed comments, research, references and evidence now have zero influence on planned actions by government. It is tokenistic, wastes the public's time and simply ticks the box prior to doing what the government planned to do all along.

This current proposal to weaken the Code and associated documents is a transparently shameless and corrupted process. Community groups have been treated with brazen contempt. It is being rushed through within a narrow timeline in order to broaden VicForests access to public land, kow-tow to logging union demands, feed the appetite of Nippon's Maryvale Mill for cheap pulp and most importantly to undermine the many court cases against VicForests that it is trying to defend.

Due to the Andrews' government's collusion, community groups have been forced to sue the government's logging monopoly VicForests. Rather than force VicForests to clean up *their* act, Daniel Andrews and his ministers are instead weakening *our* legal acts. Plans to wipe out laws that VicForests have flouted for years is NOT an intelligent solution. Strengthening the laws and rapidly transitioning to existing plantations and farmed wood fibre is. 2030 is a meaningless timeframe in political terms which this government knows, just as 2050 is for climate action.

EEG's members, supporters and the increasingly aware and worried public, are angry and outraged. We are fed up with the blatant corruption that protects environmental vandalism. We are fuming at endless government spin that tries to excuse and justify it.

Having made this clear, we submit the following as the most appropriate comment on this appalling, maladministered - at best or corrupted at worst - process and plans to change the laws for even greater vandalism of public property.

Redwood 7/21

