



FSC® Australia

Forest Stewardship Council Australia

Providing sub-regional services to New Zealand

MEDIA RELEASE

The FSC condemns koala deaths.

FSC Australia has condemned the senseless death and injury of koalas on private land in south-west Victoria.

CEO of FSC Australia and New Zealand Damian Paull said the koalas were a national icon.

“The FSC community is shocked and appalled at the tragic deaths of these koalas,” Mr Paull said.

“We join with industry and the community by calling on the Victorian Government to ensure its investigation is comprehensive, and that it takes decisive action against those responsible.”

It appears there were two operations carried out at the property.

The first occurred in October 2019, which was a hardwood plantation harvesting operation, carried out according to FSC’s Controlled Wood (CW) standard by South West Fibres (SWF is an FSC CW certificate holder). SWF followed the relevant requirements and the FSC CW standard for harvesting in areas where koalas are present.

“I am informed that SWF left an appropriate number of habitat trees for the existing koala population and advised the landowner that the koalas were uninjured and in good health,” Mr Paull said.

“The timber product removed in this first operation met the requirements for FSC CW.”

The second and subsequent operation, which occurred in late January 2020, involved clearing and moving the remaining trees into piles. This was reportedly done by the landowner, who did not carry an FSC certificate, and resulted in the unacceptable death and injury to the koalas. None of the timber from this operation has entered the FSC system.

“We note the sense of dismay felt by SWF foresters and staff after having worked so hard to protect these koalas.” Damian Paull said.

FSC Australia urges the Victorian Government to investigate whether current penalties for illegally destroying wildlife are adequate and properly policed.

FSC Australia will continue to support responsible forest management through our stringent certification standards.

ENDS-



Media enquiries:

03 9329 9984 / info@au.fsc.org

About FSC AUSTRALIA

About FSC Australia and New Zealand

Global

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) is a global market-based eco-label that promotes responsible management of the world's forests through standard setting and certification of both timber and non-timber forest products. As a not-for-profit membership-based organisation with three equal chambers - environmental, social and economic - FSC's forest management standards are developed by way of consensus to ensure that environmental, social and economic needs are balanced. Globally the FSC has certified more than 194 million hectares of natural and plantation forests in more than 80 countries with just over 1,470 certified forest managers. FSC can be found in 81 countries all over the world. With headquarters in Bonn, Germany and five regional offices and 46 National Initiatives, FSC is a truly global network.

Local

The strength of FSC is at the local level. Through our standards development processes, people define and agree what responsible forestry means in their forests. The result is forest stewardship standards that are balanced, local and lasting.

Our Role

FSC Australia and New Zealand is a National Office of FSC International. It ensures that the voice of Australian and New Zealand stakeholders are heard internationally through its membership in creating the standards and promoting the scheme.

Decision Making

FSC is governed by its members, who meet every three years to vote on the direction of FSC. Equal voting weight is given to social, environmental and economic chambers and Northern and Southern countries. In Australia, members meet annually and the Board of Directors includes people from environmental groups, community groups and forest product companies.

Core Services

- [Marketing and Promotion](#)
- [Business Development](#)
- [Policy and Standards Development](#)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [Trademark Services](#)
- [Membership Services](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Indigenous Engagement](#)