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VEAC Central West Investigation

21/8/2017

In 2002 the Victorian state government accepted the ECC recommendations on the Box & Ironbark forests. Since then Talbot Timbers has been working on and toward a better timber value adding industry from local timber.

We now produce a range of timber products which include, flooring, decking, cladding etc. All the work is now done onsite- sawmilling, kiln drying and moulding.

We process the following species- Red Ironbark, Grey Box, Yellow Gum, Blue Gum, Red Stringybark, Messmate and Sugar Gum.

All these species are supplied to us from Vicforests and all come from local state forests.

Over the last 3 years we have been installing a new milling system and have spent in excess of \$250,000 on this project. This project when totally completed will increase our production but will also enable us to better process the small logs we buy from Vicforests.

Due to the extended period this expansion has taken we haven't been using the volume of logs we

SAW MILLING & KILN DRYING

Specialising in Central Victorian native & plantation hardwoods.

Species : Goldfields Red Ironbark
: Goldfields White Ironbark
: Sugar Gum
: Greybox

Products : Flooring/ Overlay
: Cladding
: Decking
: Furniture Timber

were before this project started but in the next few months production will start to increase.

We only started this new project because of the 5 year license for logs we obtained 4 years ago.

This gave us the confidence to go ahead and make such a large commitment in this small industry.

Back in 2002 the then ECC made recommendations and comments, which are attached, that initially gave us the confidence to change from firewood production to timber value adding. We based everything we have done since on those recommendation.

So you could say the ECC is responsible for the creation and success of our business.

Which now brings us to the current investigation, Central West. We would like to encourage you to take a very thorough look at how your recommendations will affect our business in the short and long term. As you can imagine we are very nervous about how any change of land status and following loss of resource, will effect our business and those who rely on us for trade, products and income.

Also we would encourage you to look at how the ECC recommendations, on the likely hood of tourism jobs coming from the creation of the Box & Ironbark parks, turned out. To our knowledge no jobs have come from their recommendations. A lot of hope was pinned on the jobs that were to flow from their recommendations.

We know its not VEAC's job to check these things but if you are going to make recommendations on such matters, this knowledge would be invaluable.

We would like to invite the council to tour our mill to get a first hand look at what the industry has achieved.

Regards

Alistair & Roslyn Hull

Talbot Timbers

Tolosa Holdings PTY LTD Trading as:



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Wood products

Environment Conservation Council – Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation

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RECOMMENDATIONS

R30

Sawlogs be the primary wood product from future timber

harvesting in Box-Ironbark state forests, and that value-added kiln drying be encouraged.

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Wood products and forest management
Timber production will continue in the remaining state forest. The recommendations would enable the current level of sawlog harvest to continue, with, as far as practicable, the sawn timber being kiln-dried and used for value-added products, such as flooring, trims and furniture wood. The recommendations may in fact permit in time some increase in high value sawlogs, using sawlogs previously allocated to sleepers.

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