

OFFICIAL



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment

ANDREW METCALFE AO  
SECRETARY

21 May 2021

Mr John Bradley  
Secretary  
Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning  
GPO Box 500  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002

Mr Simon Phemister  
Secretary  
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions  
GPO Box 4509  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Mr Bradley and Mr Phemister

I am aware that judgment in *VicForests v Friends of Leadbeater's Possum* was handed down by the Full Federal Court on 10 May 2021. The Full Federal Court found in favour of VicForests, allowing VicForests' appeal and setting aside the final orders made by Justice Mortimer on 21 August 2020.

The Court did not overturn Justice Mortimer's findings that VicForests' forestry operations are likely to have had, or are likely to have, a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

Noting the outcome of these court proceedings, I am writing to seek assurance regarding how the Victorian Government is meeting its obligations under the Central Highlands Regional Forest Agreement and taking appropriate action to protect listed species and communities, including the Leadbeater's Possum and Greater Glider.

I would also be grateful for an update on the review of the *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014* that was announced by the Victorian Government in July 2020.

Yours sincerely 

Andrew Metcalfe AO