

Forest Reports,

I am writing to report that this morning on the 9/03/2020 at approximately 7:55am it was observed that a mature threatened Tree Geebung (*Persoonia arborea*) has been 'damaged' and 'disturbed' by VicForests timber harvesting operations in logging coupe 298-515-0001 'Zinger'. Tree Geebung plants are considered vulnerable to extinction in Victoria and relevant sections of the regulatory framework governing logging operations in Victoria requires that mature Tree Geebung plants be protected from disturbance.

Non-compliance with the regulatory framework's Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 that requires protection from disturbance for mature Tree Geebung (listed as Vulnerable to extinction) plants is a breach of the law and as such VicForests should be prosecuted.

I have attached photographic evidence of the disturbance and with GPS location. The Tree Geebung is located at 55 H 0370790 5849158. The Tree Geebung had not been marked or tagged/taped for retention. The Tree Geebung was large in size and observed to be approximately 20cm DBH.

Excerpts from: "Management Standards and Procedures for timber harvesting operations in Victoria's State forests, 2014"

4.3.1.1 Apply management actions for rare and threatened flora identified within areas affected by timber harvesting operations as outlined in Appendix 3 Table 14 (Rare or threatened flora prescriptions).

Tree Geebung

Persoonia arborea

Protect mature individuals from disturbance where possible.

I observed the Tree Geebung to have significant disturbance to the roots, and it appeared to have been knocked by heavy logging machinery. The Tree Geebung is located within a Leadbeater's Possum buffer zone, VicForests was given approval from the OCR to construct a road through the buffer under conditions that it only removed understorey species and minimised disturbance. The damage to the Tree Geebung is also in contradiction to VicForests' undertaking to minimise disturbance while conducting roadworks through the LBP buffer zone.

It appears that no observable demarcation or attempt has been made to protect the Tree Geebung from disturbance. Mature Tree Geebung plants are relatively easy forest plants to detect and identify. It was certainly "possible" (and easy) to detect and identify them, and to

not disturb them once found by not damaging and/or destroying them or forest areas near them through logging activities by marking out adequate buffers and by refraining from bulldozing them with heavy machinery.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Regards,

Chris Schuringa

forestconservationvic11@gmail.com