

# **APPLICATION TO HARVEST AND EXPORT NATIVE WILDLIFE**

## **Title and Introduction**

**Scientific name:** *Dicksonia antarctica*

**Common name:** Soft Tree fern

### **Location of Harvest:**

The Aire Valley and Webster's Hill softwood plantation is situated in the Otway Ranges in southern Victoria (see Attachments 1 & 2).

### **Description:**

*Dicksonia antarctica* is a plant that has a fibrous trunk. Plants ranging in size from 15cm to 240 cm in trunk height. Diameters 15cm - 40cm. Fronds are broad and rolling with a smooth and shiny appearance. Tree Ferns can grow to a height of 15 metres. Whole live plants are harvested from 15cm to 240 cm in height.

### **Protection:**

*Dicksonia antarctica* is a protected species that requires a permit to harvest under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* of 1988 and a permit to export under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999.

## **Statement of General Goals and Aims**

The area that has the population of tree ferns will be harvested for nursery sales and export. There will be no harvesting along streamside reserves and selective mature tree ferns will be left for natural reproduction.

## **Harvest Details**

### **Area of Harvesting:**

The Aire Valley and Webster's Hill softwood plantations are situated in the Otway Ranges in southern Victoria. The approx size is 3500 hectares (see Attachments 1 & 2).

### **Details of Land Ownership:**

The land is a Softwood plantation that is logged on a regular basis. Harvesting of tree ferns can only be undertaken from within the plantation planted area. Tree fern harvesting operations are excluded from code exclusion areas and sections of filter strips as identified as reserve areas. Tree fern harvesting is excluded from streamside reserves and drainage lines. No disturbance is to occur within these areas and no entry of machinery is allowed. Only certain coupes are available for harvesting each year. Please find details of ownership and copies of relevant permits attached. (see Attachments 3&4).

### **Quantity of Harvesting:**

Allocation of 33,800 whole live plants would be initially requested for export movement each year. This will be measured by tags issued from the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment.

### **Methods of Harvesting and Equipment:**

All harvesting is by selective hand cutting and chainsaws. Sleds, a small tractor and a 4WD motorbike are the equipment used for removal. We also have on site first aid and fire fighting

equipment as it is a commercial operation; there is minimal impact on the habitat from our harvesting operations. All staff are fully trained in the use of the equipment and hold relative licences and comply with relative work safe practices.

**Timing and Duration of Harvesting Period:**

Permits allow harvesting twelve months of the year but harvesting occurs mainly between October and May each year.

**Impact of Harvest on the Tax,a and the Relevant ecosystem**

**Effects on the Species and Other Species:**

Effects of harvesting on the species shall have minimal impact as only salvage harvesting is carried out for commercial value ferns in a small region that is not located in national parks or river ways. It is believed that the salvage harvesting has minimal effect on other species within the ecosystem.

**Monitoring and Assessment**

**Resource Assessment:**

There is ongoing monitoring of *Dicksonia antarctica* populations conducted by the officer for the Department of Sustainability and Environment based at Colac, Victoria each year for this harvesting site. Each year a report to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) Annual report for Wildlife Trade Operation is completed by us on the amount of plants harvested with the amount that are exported and what is local distribution.

**Independent Supervision:**

Independent supervision of harvesting is monitored by the land owner and the Department of Sustainability and Environment officer based in Colac, Victoria, under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

**Monitoring of Harvest:**

No monitoring of harvest is required as it is a salvage operation from a commercial timber harvesting activity.

**Further Monitoring:**

There is no further monitoring proposed at this stage to this harvesting site.

**Management strategies:**

Due to the fact that it is salvage harvesting operation from a commercial farm there is no effect on the species or other species or plant. We do however leave 50% of tree ferns from filter strip areas. Stream side reserves are fully protected and a minimum density of mature tree ferns per hectare is left.

**Compliance:**

Restrictions on harvest and sale are controlled under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and the mechanism to monitor is by way of permit and tagging of ferns with identification of permit holder.



Reports:

An annual report is required by DSEWPaC (Annual report for Wildlife Trade Operation) stating the number of tree ferns harvested and the number exported. Department of Sustainability and Environment Victoria issue numbered tags which are attached to each plant as soon as possible after harvesting. This enables numbers to be accurately recorded.

Background information:

The species *Dicksonia antarctica* is found in considerable populations in the nature reserves and national parks of southern Victoria.

These include:

Otway National Park

Redwater Flora Reserve

Melba Gully State Park

Big Tree West Barham Reserve

Olangla Flora Reserve

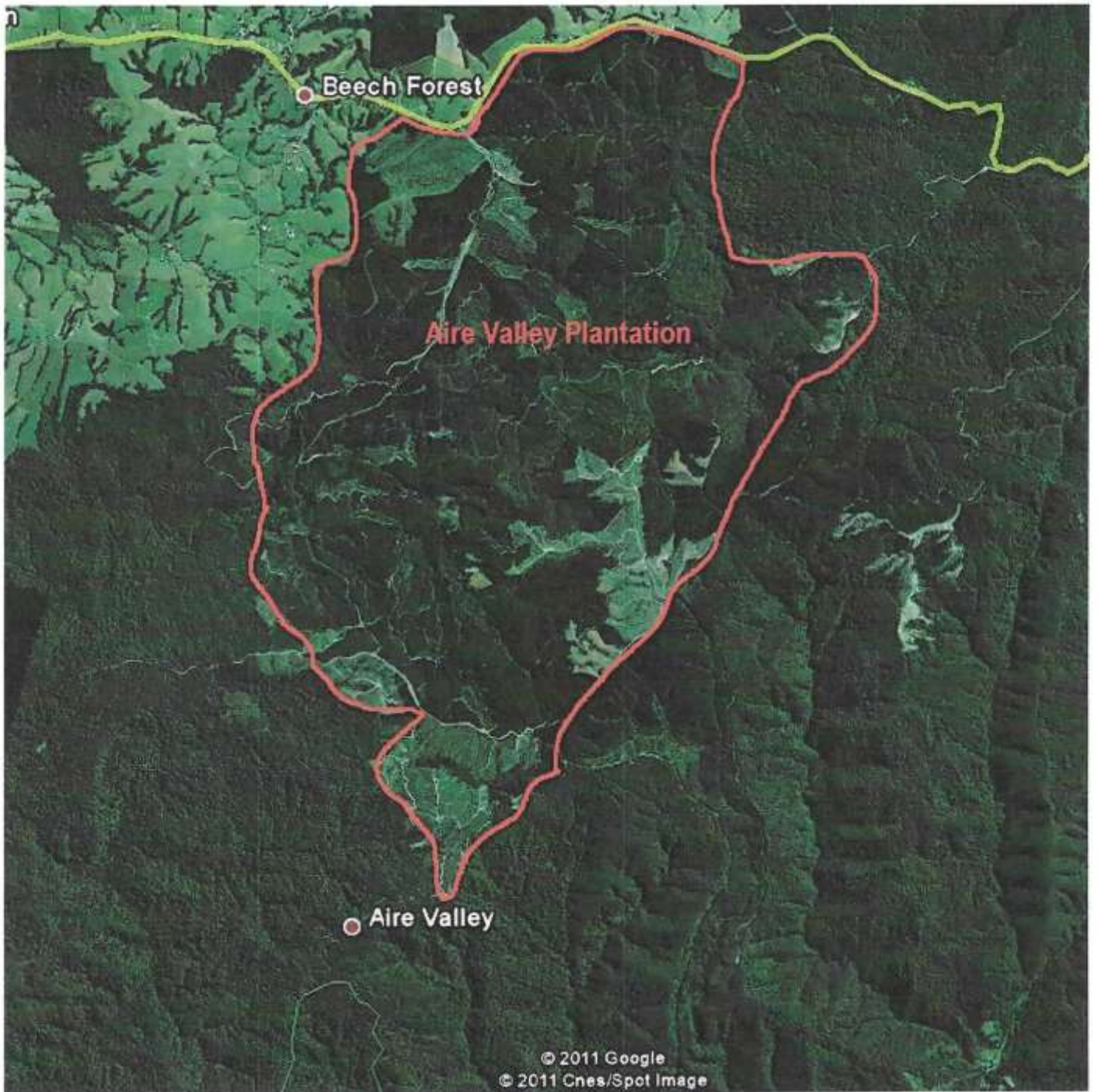
Closed water catchments: Olangla Weir, West Gellibrand Weir, Arknas Creek and others.

In the 1930's natural rainforest was cleared for softwood production. Natural regrowth that has occurred since that period is the plant that is to be taken. Average age of plants taken is thought to be between 5 and 25 years.

References (see attachment 5.)



Attachment 1



Attachment 2.





## Forest Produce Licence

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Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Limited  
(ACN 084 801 132)

M & K Cole Ferns Pty Ltd  
(ACN 083 435 143)

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### Licence No. 2COL2018

Commencement Date: :	<b>October 1, 2017</b>
Expiry Date:	<b>June 30, 2018</b>

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HVP Log Supply & Purchase Agreement (short-term)  
**Commercial in Confidence**



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment and Energy

Type of document  
 Export  
 Re-export  
 Import  
 Other

NON-CITES

**Original - Valid for Multiple Consignments**

1. Multiple Consignment Authority No. : PWS2017-AU-000550  
 2. Valid Until : 31/3/2020

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**3. Importer (Name, Address, and Country)**

**4. Exporter (Name, Address, and Country)**

M & K COLE FERNS PTY LTD  
 151 HARRIS ROAD  
 ELLIMINYT VIC 3250  
 AUSTRALIA

**5. Conditions**

- This permit is not transferable  
 - If for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations; if for live plants, with the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations  
 - For special conditions specific to this permit also refer below.

**6. Name, Address and Country of Issuing Authority**

Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Branch  
 GPO BOX 787  
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

5a. Purpose : Not Required

7/B. Scientific & Common Name  
 (Genus and Species of Animal or Plant)

9. Description

10. Source

11. Quantity and Unit

1 *Dicksonia antarctica*  
 Soft Tree-fern

Live plant(s)

(W)

NO.

**Special Conditions**

Under Part 13A of the EPBC Act all Commonwealth and State/Territory requirements in relation to this specimen(s) must be met.

This permit is restricted to the export of specimens from a source approved by the Issuing Authority including a current wildlife trade operation; captive breeding program; wildlife trade management plan; artificial propagation program or aquaculture program.

A specimen export record (SER) must be completed for each consignment exported under this permit, including all specimens and quantities to be exported. Copies must be distributed in accordance with the instructions at the bottom of the front page of the SER form. All damaged/in error/cancelled not exported SER forms must be marked unused and returned to the Issuing Authority within two weeks.

**For Exports, a photocopy of the Multiple Consignment Authority should accompany the original Specimen Export Record which details the specific items in each consignment**

**13. Authority for Permit/Certificate**

Issued By: Mr Christopher O Hicks

Issue Date: 31/03/2017

Issued under s303DG of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

*Christopher O Hicks*  
 Signature



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Australian Government

Official seal

Department of the Environment and Energy





## Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Pursuant to the provisions of the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988** permission is hereby granted to:

**Mrs Kerrie Cole**  
**M & K Cole Ferns Pty Ltd**  
**151 Harris Road**  
**ELLIMINVT 3250**

and Jarron Cole, Travis Cole, Brandon Cole, Brad Trotter and staff under the direction of the permit holder, in order to take protected flora from **crown allotments ISF, 15G, 15H, 29L and 29M within the Parish of Olangolah and crown allotment 2012 within the Parish of Weeaprounah** (as per file 06102017123421-0001.pdf provided with the application) and **owned by Hancock Victorian Plantations**. Taking will be by hand with hand tools and for the purpose of collection of material for commercial sale.

Permission is given subject to the following conditions:

### **Specific conditions**

1. The permit holder is authorised to take, keep and trade protected flora as follows:  
**Taxa:** *Dicksonia Antarctica*, Soft Tree Fern  
**Plant parts:** Whole Plants  
**Quantity:** 33,700.
2. The following tag numbers have been assigned to this permit:  
203,6301 - 204,0000  
204,5001- 207,5000
3. Prior to commencing the taking, approval of the managing authority of the land must be obtained.
4. The permit holder is required to notify the local DELWP Natural Environment Program officer of their proposed activities at least three days in advance. He/she is to be advised, in advance, of each visit made in connection with the provisions of this permit. Contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186 and ask for the contact number of the nearest DELWP regional office to where the collection is to be undertaken.
5. Harvesting operations to comply with the:
  - The Victorian Tree-fern Management Plan (2001)
  - Code of Forest Practice for Timber Production 2014
  - Colac Otway Shire Planning Scheme
6. Harvesting operations must be in accordance with the following environmental management practices.
  - Tree-fern harvesting can be undertaken from within plantation planted area only.



- Tree-fern harvesting operations are excluded from code exclusion areas and sections of filter strips as identified as reserve areas (as marked in the field), no disturbance is to occur within these areas, no entry of machinery is allowed.
  - Tree-fern harvesting operations are excluded from streamside reserves, no disturbance is to occur within these buffers, no entry of machinery is allowed.
  - Drainage lines and filter strips with intact native vegetation is to be protected from impacts, no tree-fern harvesting is to occur in these areas. Harvesting can occur up to the plantation edge.
  - Harvesting of plantation trees can be undertaken within drainage lines and filter strips provided that;- there is no entry of tractors or dozer type machinery into filter strip (10 meter strip either side of the drainage line). The use of sled and winch are allowed provided the tractor is stationed outside of the filter strip.
7. The living crown of grasstrees and tree-ferns that are handled for the purposes of trading must be marked with a tag at all times. Tags are supplied by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).
    - Tags must be attached as close to the crown as possible or the trunk and applies to all large and small plants with discernible crowns.
    - Tags must be attached to plants as soon as possible after harvesting and prior to leaving the site or property where they were harvested.
    - All tags issued under this permit are to remain in your custody or agents custody, until affixed to the plant at time of take at the harvesting site.
  8. Tags must be fixed by the applicant to those plants applied for under the permit application. Unused tags issued under this permit.
    - must be returned to the DELWP office on or prior to the expiry of this permit (unless otherwise granted an extension by DELWP), with the applicants name, the date the tags were issued and a list of unused tag numbers.
    - Tags must not be used on plants other than those referred to in this application nor made available for use by other parties.
  9. Those retail trading tree-ferns or grasstrees must ensure that the tag is cut in half when the tree-fern or grasstree is sold.
  10. A copy of the permit under which the tags were issued by DELWP must be made available for inspection by an authorised officer.
  11. Taking activities should always be planned and be executed to minimise their impact on the environment. Damage to non-target protected flora as a result of the permitted activity may be deemed to constitute unauthorised taking.
  12. Vehicles, equipment and people must not cause unnecessary soil disturbance. All activities must prevent the spread of weeds and soil pathogens through the employment of appropriate hygiene practices and in accordance with DSE (2008) "Victoria's Public Land *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Management Strategy" Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne. All vehicles, machinery and hand tools will be made free of soil, seeds and other plant material before being taken to the taking site and again before being taken from the taking site on completion of the project.

### **Reporting obligations**

13. A report of the collection activities, including the name of the collector, species, numbers, dates of collection, maps of collection sites (GPS locations, copies of Melway or ESMAP maps are appropriate), must be submitted by the permit holder to the DELWP



issuing office within 30 days of expiry of this permit. **Requests for the renewal of a permit will be considered only after these requirements are met.**

**General conditions**

14. Provisions of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* must be observed, except where exemption is specifically provided for in this permit.
15. The granting of this permit under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* does not exempt the holder of a permit from the requirements of other Commonwealth and State legislation or policy.
16. The direction of any Authorised Officer of DELWP, in relation to this permit, must be promptly complied with. Powers of authorised officers are stated in S.57 of the Act.
17. The permit holder must ensure that all staff, contractors and sub-contractors have received appropriate environmental training to make them aware of flora and fauna conservation requirements and their obligations in relation to the permit.
18. The holder of this permit is to keep a record of the contractors or agents so authorised. Where a project involves more than one worker or a group activity, all work is to be under the direction of the permit holder who shall be deemed responsible.
19. The permit or copy must be carried by any person acting under this authority whilst undertaking any work in any area named on the permit and shown on demand to any DELWP Authorised Officer. All contractors working under the direction of the permit holder must have access to the permit or copy.
20. The rights granted by this permit are not transferable to other persons without the written consent of the Secretary, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, or their delegate.
21. Failure to comply with the terms and limitations of this permit may result in its cancellation and render the permit holder liable to prosecution.

**This permit shall, unless revoked, remain in force until 30/11/2018.**



**Carolyn Jackson**

Acting Regional Director, Barwon South West Region

(Delegate of the Secretary)

06/11/2017

I have read and agree to abide by the conditions of this permit.

Name Kerne Cole Position OWNER

Organisation M+K Cole FERNS Date 8/11/17

