



**Rainforest Logging breach report - coupe 843-518-0035  
'Bellman'**

**Prepared by Goongerah Environment Centre and Fauna  
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This report has been compiled by Goongerah Environment Centre and Fauna and Flora Research Collective to inform the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning of a rainforest breach in VicForests 'Bellman' coupe 842-518-0035.

A large stand of warm temperate/cool temperate overlap rainforest is present on the eastern side of the coupe. Sections of the large rainforest stand fall within the coupe boundary. Logging has occurred directly adjacent to the large stand of closed canopy rainforest and no buffer has been put in place. The rainforest stand contains large rainforest canopy trees and a closed canopy of greater than 70% projected foliage cover. The rainforest stand is greater than 20 hectare in size, at least 1 hectare of the stand falls within the coupe boundary.

Logging has breached section 4.4.9 (d) of the Management Standards and Procedures for Timber Harvesting in Victoria's State Forests that requires a 40 m buffer around rainforest stands 0.4 hectares or more in size.



**Image: Logging disturbance directly adjacent to closed canopy rainforest.**

Due to the unambiguous nature of what is clearly a rainforest breach, our groups strongly urge the DELWP to criminally prosecute VicForests for breaching the Sustainable Forests and Timber Act.

Given VicForests systemic failure to comply with the rainforest protections within the regulatory framework, we believe the only suitable course of action that will force a change in their practices is for the DELWP to criminally prosecute.

The coupe has been partially logged. VicForests' demarcation tapes marking the boundary of the harvest area continue into the rainforest stand. If logging continues further breaches will take place adjacent and within the rainforest stand that has not been given the legally required buffer.

We are disappointed this coupe appears to have not been included in the proposed pre logging 'rainforest spot checks' program. We request the DELWP provide information to our organisations regarding the status of the rainforest spot checks program and why the Bellman coupe was not considered to be assessed for rainforest values prior to logging.

We look forward to the DELWP conducting a through investigation and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with DELWP staff on site to provide more information.



**Image: Logging within rainforest buffer**



**Image above:** Looking upslope from edge of the disturbance line into logged rainforest and rainforest buffer. Facing towards logging coupe.

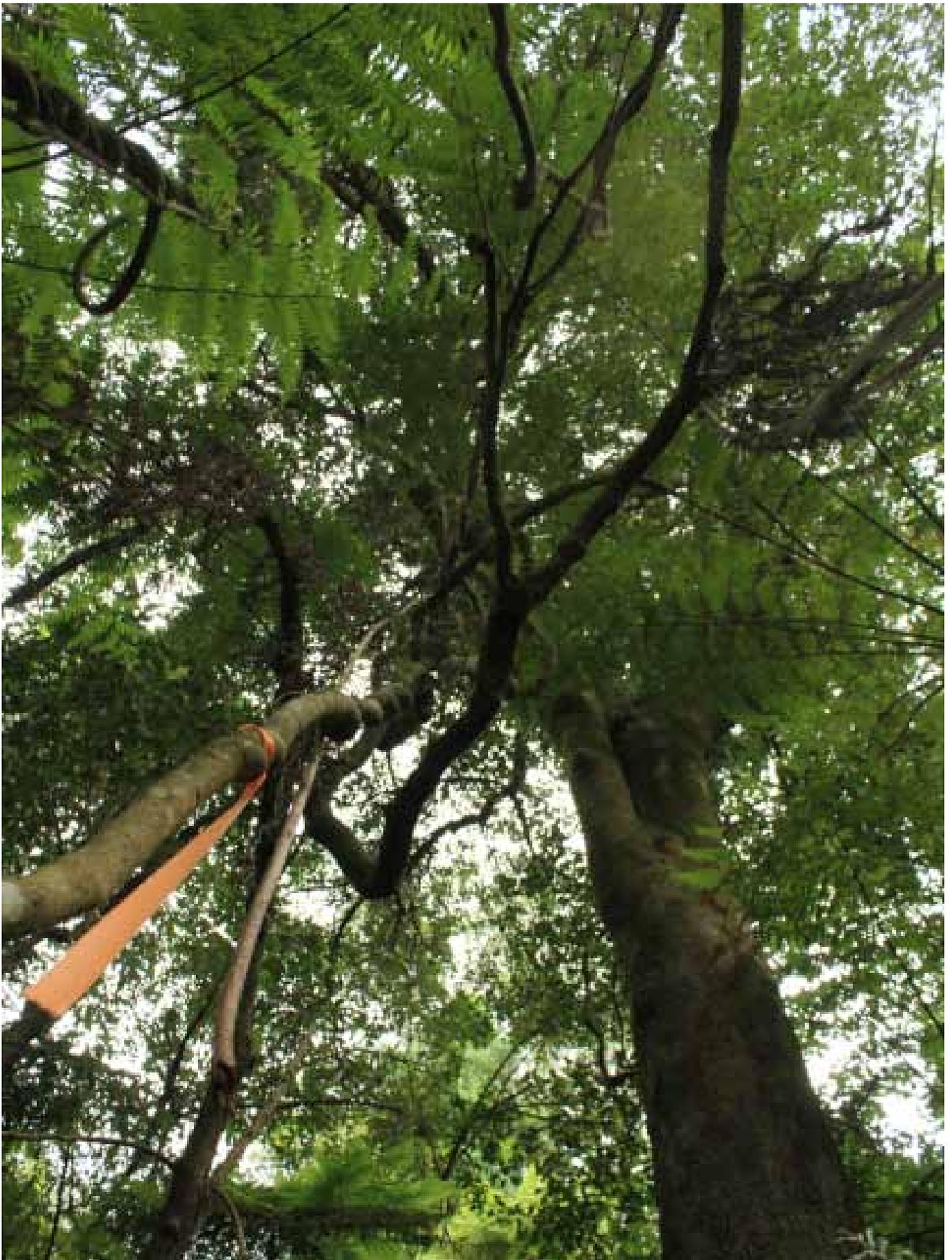
**Image below:** Photo taken from same location, but facing away from coupe towards rainforest, 1m away from very large Lily Pily.





**Images: Logged rainforest and rainforest buffer**





**Image: VicForests boundary demarcation tape within closed canopy rainforest.**



**Image: VicForests boundary demarcation tape within closed canopy rainforest. Tape tied to Lily Pily rainforest canopy tree.**



**Image: Looking up into closed canopy rainforest from VicForests boundary tape line.**

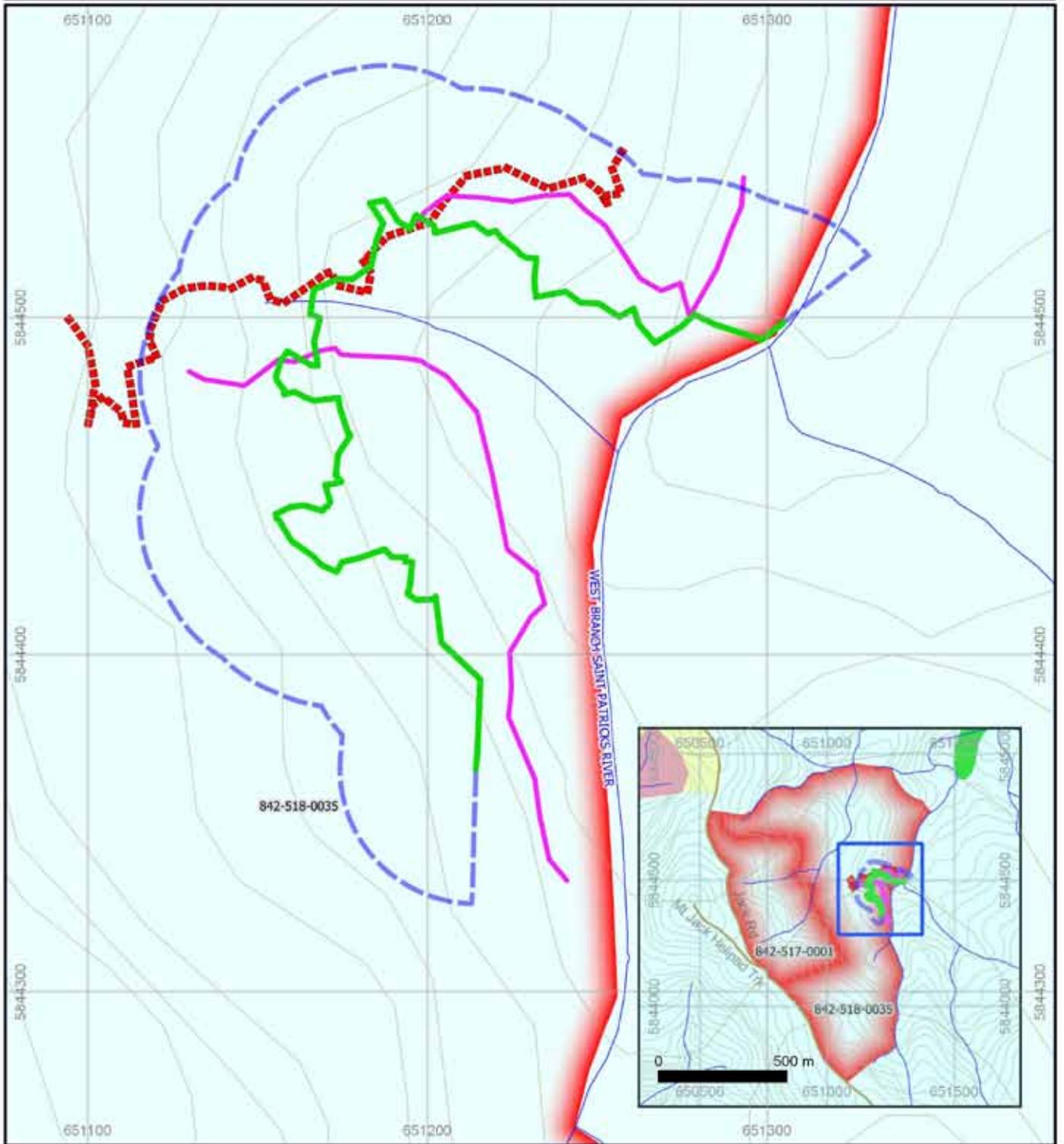


**Image: VicForests harvest boundary tape line in closed canopy rainforest.**



**Image: VicForests harvest boundary tape tied to rainforest canopy species.  
Lily Pily & Black Olive berry.**

Jack's Road - 842-518-0035 ("Bellman") - Context Map. Overlap Warm/Cool Temperate Rainforest Extent and minimum buffers; CTRF EVC mapping [NV\_2005EVCBCS]; FMZ [DEPI, June, 2014]; VicForests' logging disturbance, coupe demarcation and TRP



Legend		
	Minimum area of Overlap Warm/Cool Temperate Rainforest extent	Cool Temperate Rainforest EVC [NV2005_EVCBCS]
	Minimum 40m Buffer on min. rainforest extent	
	VicForests logging disturbance	Rainforests
	VicForests coupe demarcation tapes	Forest Management Zoning [FMZ100; DEPI, June, 2014]
	Timber Release Plan (VicForests) [Approved_TRP_August2015]	
		Special Protection - River Frontage
		Special Protection Zone
		Special Management Zone
		General Management Zone
		Roads
		Watercourses
		Contours

Projection: EPSG: 28355  
GDA94/MGA Zone 55

Map Scale: 1:20,000

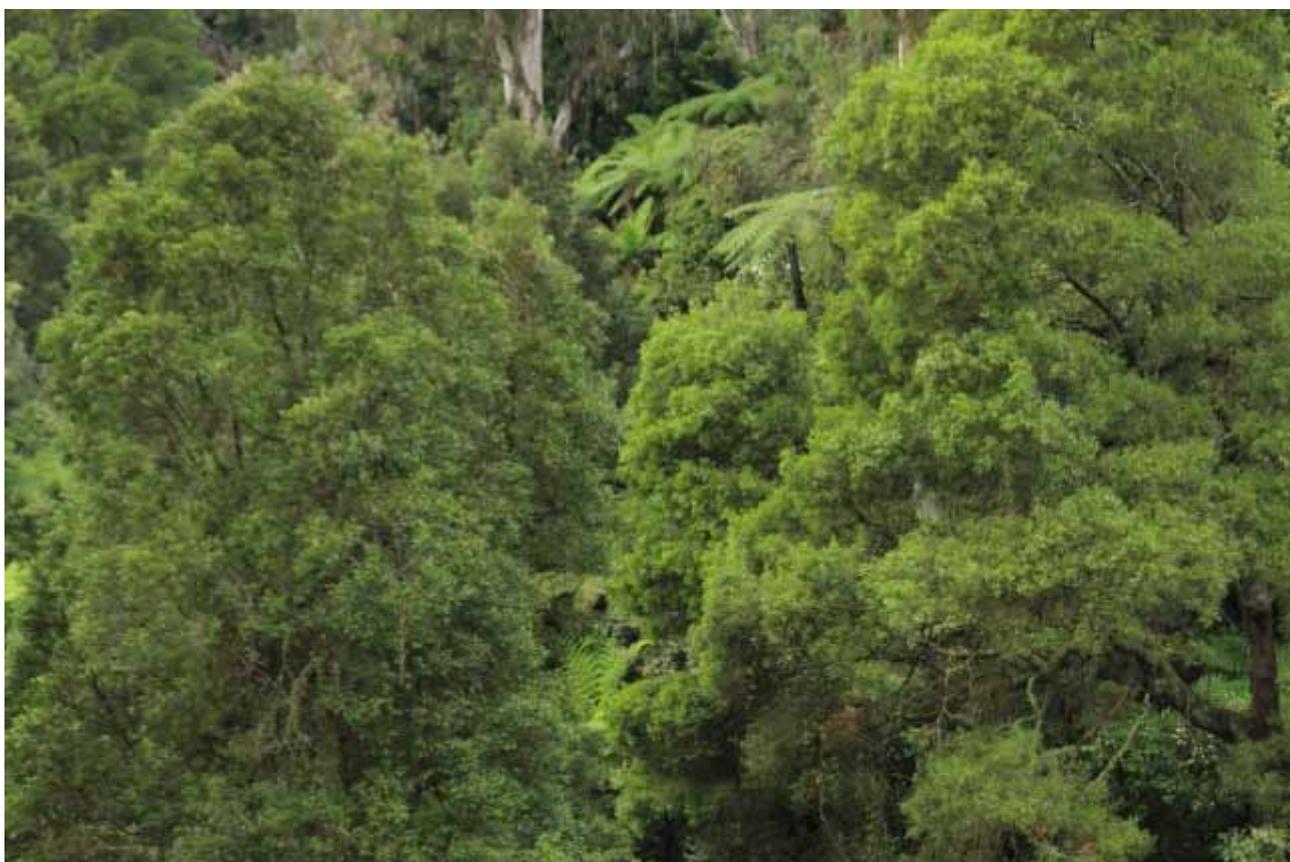
**Figure one:** Map of study site showing extent of logging, extent of rainforest within Bellman coupe, appropriate placement of minimum 40m rainforest buffer and VicForest boundary tape line.



**Images: Large Lily Pily trees, >2m circumference within coupe boundary.**



**Image: Large Lily Pily 3m circumference, within coupe**



**Image: Closed canopy rainfores, Blackwood (right) and Lily Pily (left). Logging has occurred to within 1m of Lily Pily tree on left.**