



Restoring Ash-type forests in Victoria's post-timber harvesting era.

Why an innovative solution is required.

Day 2 – Breakout #13

Owen Bassett (Forest Solutions)

Leigh Crocker (Ion Group)



Ion Group



Forestry Australia Conference

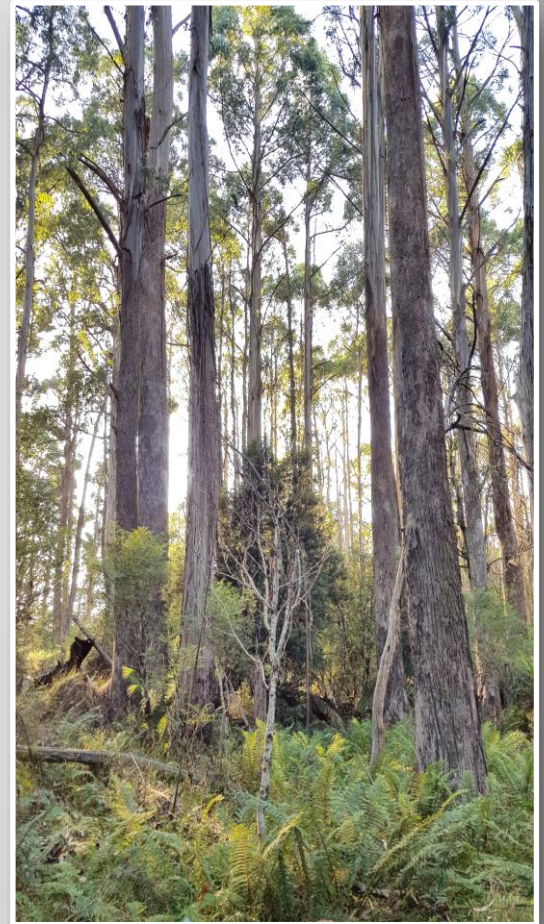
Adelaide, 21st October 2025

Owen's mobile: 0488 710 770



The Innovation...

- A new, **private seed facility** for Ash species
(to compliment already established State operations)
- The facility **part-funded** by the State, part by private (60/40)
(The State's Transition Plan fund)
- Operations funded by **corporate and private donors**
- Developed and managed by **specialists** to best-practice
(in silviculture, seed management and business management)
- Seed reserved exclusively for State use – **free of charge.**



The Feasibility study...

- DEECA has funded a feasibility study undertaken by Forest Solutions
- **Outcome:** **Feasible**, based partly on...
 - the massive **scale of impact** on Ash forests,
 - Victoria's past forest recovery **performance** (including seed banking),
 - the need for **preparedness**,
 - our potential to **maximise a RESIST posture**.



The ABC Landline program...

LANDLINE



Leigh Crocker (Ion Group), Tim Lee (ABC) and cameraman Pete Healy (ABC)

22 June 2025

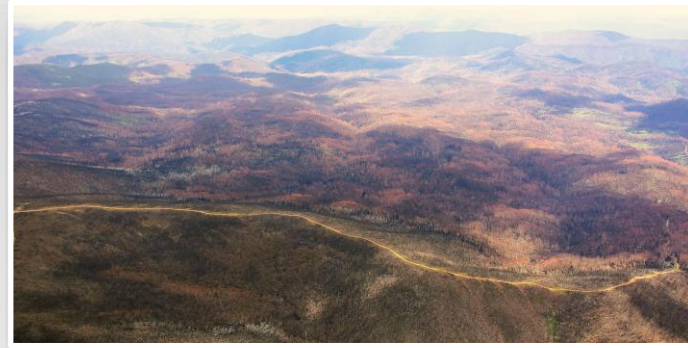




David Brown (CFA)



- Victoria has experienced six **short-interval bushfire seasons** in only 2 decades
- High impact on montane **obligate seeders** like Victoria's two Ash-type eucalypts
Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) and Alpine Ash (*E. delegatensis*)
- Ash species are **reproductively immature** for 20 years.



- Of 380,000 ha of Alpine Ash (AA), **70% has experienced fire**, some 2-3 times
- Only **30%** (114,000 ha) remains as **undamaged mature forest**
- **14%** (50,000 ha) has **locally collapsed** (IFKAR)
- **21%** (80,000 ha) is immature and **at risk** from future fires
- The Federal Government is considering an **EPBC endangered listing**

% burnt that is IFKAR	
2003	3%
2006-09	5%
2013	10%
2020	29%

Victoria's response...





Victoria's past performance...

- 50,000 ha of IFKAR has needed our intervention
- **25,000** ha has been aurally sown using **15 tonnes of seed** (RESIST)
VicForests – the ACTIVE contributor to seed collection, seed banking, and aerial sowing operations)
- BUT – **25,000 ha could not be sown** – insufficient seed ('ACCEPT')
- Pre-fire: **20%** of required seed in store
At sowing: **46%** of required seed in store (a reactive approach to seed collection)
- Conclusion: Commendable response, but a high level of **unpreparedness**

A call to join this pro-active, nature positive program...

EOI are sought for foundation partners to join Australia's first best-practice private Ash seed collection and storage facility.

\$1M will collect, manage and make available 1 tonne* of Ash seed.

(*Area equivalent = 2,000 ha)

Victoria currently has about 6 tonnes of Alpine Ash seed, but we need 23 tonnes - initially in milestones of 5-10 tonnes.

Our proposal is to collect 2-3 tonnes annually **to assist State efforts and help minimise future loss of Ash forests.**

A call to join this pro-active, nature positive program...

EOI are sought for foundation partners to join Australia's first best-practice private Ash seed collection and storage facility.

Scan the QR Code to get in touch.

OR contact...

Mr Leigh Crocker, Ion Group Consulting

0419 359 409

Owen's contact: 0488 710 770

