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Timber Nets \$4 million for Victoria

VicForests' latest timber auction has generated more than \$4 million for Victoria.

VicForests' Director, Sales & Planning, Robert Green, said most of the timber sold came from fire salvage operations in areas devastated by the Black Saturday bushfires.

"The timber sold will help to sustain local economies and continue to provide employment for Victorian regional communities," Mr Green said.

"The lots auctioned off were sold for a total price of \$4.19 million.

"Mills from across Victoria were successful buyers at the auction including Ryan & McNulty in Benalla, Reid Bros Timber in Yarra Junction and Midway Limited in Geelong.

"This latest auction provided sawlogs, pulplogs, poles and specialty logs to the timber industry.

"VicForests has seen an increase in demand for wood as economic conditions improve and the logs sold will be supplied to industry during 2010.

"The majority of the timber available was surplus from fire salvage operations in the ash forests of the Central Highlands following the 2009 bushfires. This is the second auction of surplus fire salvage logs, after a similar process took place last September," he said.

According to Mr Green, 'salvage harvesting' ensures the wood from areas devastated by bushfire is utilised.

"Salvage harvesting is the process of recovering trees which have been killed or damaged by a bushfire," Mr Green said.

"Each hectare of salvage harvested forest means one more hectare of unburnt forest is left to continue to grow.

"The timber from salvage harvesting operations is used for flooring, housing, furniture and paper as well as many other purposes.

"All VicForests' salvage harvesting operations comply with strict environmental standards, and take place following an extensive assessment of fire affected areas.

"Once harvesting is completed, all areas are regenerated with eucalypt seed native to the local environment," he said.

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