



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**Wednesday 6 June 2007**

### **Brookville Gap back to capacity as works conclude**

The Brookville Gap will return to full usage on Tuesday, when log trucks resume using the road, following extensive improvement works.

The Brookville Gap is a narrow section of road on the Brookville Road to the south of Swifts Creek.

Improvements were completed recently with funding from the State Government, administered by VicRoads, under the Rural Local Timber Roads program. The funding program is specifically aimed at roads that are impacted by the timber industry.

East Gippsland Shire, VicForests, South East Fibre Exports and Wilmott Forests work closely to identify road projects which have multiple benefits for local residents and the timber industry.

The Brookville Gap project was considered a high priority under the scheme because it combines local access with industry use, which contributes to the local economy.

East Gippsland Shire also contributed funding to the maintenance works.

VicForests Regional Manager East Gippsland, Barry Vaughan said that log trucks would begin carting both green and salvage timber from a number of harvesting coupes to a variety of locations including sawmills in Swifts Creek, Bairnsdale, Nowa Nowa and Heyfield.

“Even though the residents have continued to use the road since work kicked off at the end of March, they did experience significant delays and were extremely patient during the works. We’re very conscious and appreciative of that,” he said.

“Log trucks and residents will be able to continue using the road in a much safer way now that the works are complete.

“VicForests is satisfied that the East Gippsland Shire has achieved a good value for money outcome on the Brookville Gap project and we credit the significant collaboration between all parties as a key driver in achieving a high-quality result”.

Major works to the road involved widening the road significantly on a steep side slope with some challenging sections of tough rock. Works were completed this week.

Works were completed by a local company, R&M Contracting Pty Ltd.

**ENDS**

***Media enquiries:***

***Barry Vaughan, Regional Manager, VicForests. Tel. 5152 0618 or 0428 540 398.***

***Ian McDougall, role, East Gippsland Shire, Tel. number***