



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**Monday 27 November 2006**

### **Vandalism puts safety at risk on Cassilis Road**

Vandalism and theft of safety signage on Cassilis Road is putting residents, and road users at risk, says VicForests' Regional Manager, East Gippsland, Mr Barry Vaughan.

Mr Vaughan stated that some Cassilis Road residents had stated their aversion to heavy vehicles using the road and that VicForests was addressing specific safety concerns.

"Unfortunately, the actions of a few are putting in jeopardy the very safety that residents want," Mr Vaughan said.

"This direct action is extremely disappointing and childish. Not only does it result in a cost to everyone in the community, it places everyone that uses the road in danger.

"Vandalism and theft of safety signage, erratic driving behaviour in front of trucks roadside parking of cars in obstructive locations, forcing other traffic to avoid them, are all recent examples of this dangerous behaviour.

VicForests recently suspended cartage on Cassilis Road, whilst it investigated an independent report put forward by the East Gippsland Shire. Cartage is expected to resume in the next few days, following additional communication with residents.

Residents can expect an average of four loaded trucks to use the road per day.

VicForests undertook extensive work with VicRoads, East Gippsland Shire, the timber industry and other stakeholders before commencing haulage on the road.

"We would much prefer to continue work with residents and industry to address safety concerns, rather than have people taking things into their own hands," Mr Vaughan said.

"It is clear that the actions of a minority could ultimately have a much greater cost.

"It is critical that heavy vehicles from the timber industry, as well as other industries, such as the Cassilis Mine project, can co-exist with residents in this and other communities.

"VicForests will continue to monitor and respond to safety concerns relating to log trucks, especially by those directly affected, that are brought to our attention."

*VicForests is a State-owned business enterprise, responsible for the sustainable harvest and sale of native timber from Victoria's State forests.*

**ENDS**

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