

Thursday, September 30th 2010

Forests in western Victoria removed from Allocation Order

VicForests has acknowledged the removal of forests in western Victoria from its Allocation Order by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

VicForests' CEO, David Pollard, said the organisation never intended to harvest forests in the west of the State.

"VicForests had no plans to harvest forests in western Victoria," Dr Pollard said.

"It is predictable that some groups would attempt to create alarm within the community by suggesting that harvesting would recommence in the Wombat State Forest.

"This was never part of VicForests' plans despite a scare-mongering campaign by individuals who oppose the native timber industry.

"Our operations are based in eastern Victoria and will continue to be based there," he said.

The Allocation Order outlines a number of key elements relating to native timber harvesting in Victoria.

"Importantly, the latest changes to the Allocation Order do not allow for an increase in the area or volume of timber permitted to be harvested by VicForests," Dr Pollard said.

"The Allocation Order is one of a number of legislative instruments with which VicForests operations must comply.

"It defines the areas which VicForests can access, the maximum area available for timber harvesting in each five-year period and outlines the various conditions with which VicForests must comply when carrying out its operations.

"VicForests also develops Timber Release Plans to detail the exact areas it plans to harvest before any harvesting operations take place.

"These plans must be approved by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

"VicForests' Timber Release Plans comply not only with the Allocation Order but also all relevant Codes of Practice relating to the timber industry in Victoria," he said.

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