

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

## VicForests seeks public feedback on harvesting plans

VicForests is seeking public feedback on planned changes to their future harvesting plans known as Timber Release Plans (TRP).

A TRP is a rolling plan which outlines the areas of native forest (coupes) which are currently part of VicForests' planning process.

These include areas VicForests is currently harvesting and those it plans to harvest in the near future. Timber Release Plans also list areas which VicForests is regenerating following previous harvesting activities, before handing back to the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) for ongoing management.

Modifications are made to TRPs each year as part of VicForests' annual planning process. These proposed amendments do not result in extra forest being harvested.

This year VicForests plans to add 242 new coupes and roadlines, and modify 56 coupes and roadlines already on the plans.

The amendments also include plans to remove 79 coupes from the plans that have been successfully harvested, regenerated and handed back to DSE.

VicForests' Tactical Planning Manager, Lachlan Spencer, explained "the TRP amendment process simply allows the plans to be updated as further information is gathered regarding the relevant areas. It does not result in any increases to our annual harvest rates".

The public consultation period allows all interested stakeholders to review VicForests' planned operations and provide comment. Following this process, the final plan will be submitted to DSE, who will check all the areas before final approval.

Mr Spencer said "The planning of a coupe is a long process and begins many years before harvest".

"Our foresters conduct a computer analysis of the areas, and then conduct field checks to verify this information.

"This public consultation process is extremely important as it allows VicForests to discuss our plans with members of the community and work through any questions they might have," he said.

The public consultation period runs until Thursday 8th April and VicForests asks any interested party to provide written comments during this time. Further information is available on the VicForests website: [www.vicforests.com.au](http://www.vicforests.com.au).

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