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Using all the timber we can

VicForests has addressed concerns regarding the production of sawlog and pulplog from timber harvesting.

Lachlan Spencer, VicForests' Regional Manager - Central Highlands, said no forests around Toolangi are being harvested to produce only pulplog.

"Not every part of a tree can be used as high value sawlog," Mr Spencer said.

"Sawlogs come from the trunk of a tree. However, the timber from other parts of the tree is unable to be used for this purpose.

"This includes the timber from the base of a tree, the branches and other areas such as the head of the tree where branches create knots and weaken the wood.

"Pulplog provides a highly sought after use for timber which does not meet the high standards required for sawlog.

"It is simply not possible to produce high quality sawlog without producing pulplog as a by-product.

"If this non-sawlog timber was not used as pulplog it would be left behind on the forest floor," he said.

Mr Spencer said VicForests makes the best possible use of the timber from our forests and this includes utilising wood as pulplog where necessary.

"VicForests' operations are designed to maximise the amount of high quality sawlog that can be provided by our forests," he said.

"The majority of pulplog produced by VicForests' operations in the Central Highlands goes towards the production of paper in Australia to meet community demand.

"There is already significant competition from cheaper and less sustainably produced imported papers in the Australian market place.

"Not providing pulplog from our native forests would make it even more difficult to supply paper from local sources and further encourage internationally produced substitutes for paper we currently produce here in Victoria.

"I would argue this is not a welcome outcome. Nor is it environmentally conscious," Mr Spencer said.

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