

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## VicForests Outlines Plan to Shire Council

VicForests has presented information to the Murrindindi Shire Council regarding the proposed changes to its Timber Release Plans (TRPs).

The presentation took place following queries from residents to council regarding the changes.

Jeremy Allen, VicForests' Senior Forester – Tactical Planning for Central Highlands, explained the role played by Timber Release Plans.

“The Timber Release Plans show the location of harvesting operations which are planned for the next five years,” Mr Allen said.

“VicForests amends these plans each year to ensure areas are available to allow flexibility when planning future harvesting operations.

“It is important to remember the changes proposed to the Timber Release Plans do not increase in the overall area VicForests is permitted to harvest in a five-year period”

“VicForests is required to comply with regulations which limit the amount of forest that can be harvested, regardless of how much area is included in the TRPs.

“Harvesting limits are set out in an Allocation Order which is approved by the Minister for Environment under the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004.”

Mr Allen said VicForests is keen to work with councils and the local community to ensure people are better informed about the timber industry.

“VicForests is very happy to clarify any concerns around this process so that the community are fully aware of planning for future timber harvesting operations.

“The Timber Release Planning process is particularly detailed and comprehensive, and looks to ensure the long term sustainability of the forestry industry in Victoria.

“All feedback is registered by VicForests planning staff and considered before the final plans are submitted to the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

“VicForests is firmly committed to sustainable timber harvesting. We ensure the areas we harvest are successfully regenerated before being handed back to the Department of Sustainability and Environment for ongoing management.”

“Regeneration takes approximately three years once harvesting is completed and VicForests devotes significant resources to this responsibility.”

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