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## Wildfire timber brings great returns

Timber salvaged by VicForests after the devastating 2006/07 Alpine wildfires achieved record prices at auction last week.

Over \$850,000 dollars of high quality Alpine Ash sawlogs were sold by auction to two Victorian sawmilling companies.

The wildfires killed extensive areas of Alpine Ash in eastern Victoria, and early salvage of the timber before it dried out was important to enable it to be used for high value applications.

After harvesting, some of the high quality logs were stored under water to protect them from cracking and further deterioration.

The timber salvage harvesting operation took place during 2007/08 and was part of the Government's bushfire recovery project. The majority of salvaged timber was supplied to Victorian mills during last year.

Harvesting was conducted under the strict environmental standards of the Australian Forestry Standard certification scheme.

"Salvage operations after a wildfire are vital. They reduce the need to harvest unburnt areas; help the forest recover by removing dead trees and facilitating regeneration; enhance carbon offset; and allow Victoria to gain value from sales of burnt timber," Bryan Nicholson, VicForests Senior Forester from Ovens said.

"VicForests auctioned 4600m<sup>3</sup> of this timber with exceptional results for the Victorian community," he said. "The average price achieved for the highest quality logs was \$197.00/m<sup>3</sup>, justifying any additional expense associated with storing the salvaged logs."

This was VicForests eighth online auction of Victorian timber, which provides an open and fair system for allocation of logs to mills.

The winning bidders, Fenning Investments Pty Ltd and Reid Bros Timber Pty Ltd will process these logs into sawn timber for high quality furniture and flooring timbers.

VicForests' Regional Manager, Bradley Winthrop, said the auction result was a good outcome for the community and the timber processing sector, providing log supply to meet community demand for Victorian eucalypt timbers.

### ENDS

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Attached Images of wildfire salvaged logs at Buckland – storage, grading and operation. **Media Contact:** Emma Rennison

# Media Release

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