

Wednesday, February 23rd 2011

Regeneration campaign begins

VicForests will be undertaking planned regeneration burns in the Central Highlands region in coming months.

VicForests' Director, Operations, Brad Winthrop, said the burns are part of a program aimed at regenerating the forest in areas previously harvested by VicForests.

"Regeneration burns are carried out annually to promote the establishment of young eucalypt seedlings following harvesting operations," Mr Winthrop said.

"These burns play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of our forests by creating an environment which encourages the regrowth of trees native to the area.

"We are very conscious of the community's sensitivity towards fire and want to ensure people are not alarmed by smoke they may see as a result of this process," he said.

Mr Winthrop said the burns are part of a larger planned burning program being undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

"VicForests has developed detailed plans in relation to its burning program with DSE," he said.

"All burns will be authorised by DSE prior to ignition and will be closely monitored by crews on location.

"Milder weather and recent rainfall has given us the opportunity to begin our regeneration burning process earlier than has traditionally been the case. However, VicForests will continue to carefully monitor conditions before any burns commence.

"We would like to reassure the community that a thorough planning process has been completed prior to the commencement of this year's regeneration burning program.

"The program is part of the annual management plan for Victoria's forests and burns will be monitored by trained staff throughout," Mr Winthrop said.

Residents wanting more information can contact the Victorian Bushfire Information line on 1800 240 667 or go to www.dse.vic.gov.au and click on the Bushfire Information link.

Hearing impaired residents can also call 1800 122 969 for more details.

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