

Thursday, March 3rd 2011

VicForests seeks public feedback

VicForests is seeking public feedback regarding its proposed timber harvesting plans.

Daniel Sedunary, VicForests' Manager, Tactical Planning, said updates to VicForests' Timber Release Plans (TRPs) are part of an annual planning process.

"VicForests' Timber Release Plans provide information regarding proposed harvesting operations for a period of up to five years," Mr Sedunary said.

"VicForests amends these plans each year to add new areas for future harvesting and to remove unharvested areas which are no longer being considered as part of our operations.

"The changes proposed to the Timber Release Plans do not increase the overall area VicForests is permitted to harvest in a five-year period.

"VicForests is asking the community to provide feedback related to specific aspects of the proposed harvesting plans including the timing of harvesting operations.

"Feedback received from the public is closely considered by VicForests' Tactical Planning staff before the proposed plans are finalised.

"Once finalised, the plans are submitted to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) for approval before harvesting operations commence.

"This public consultation process is extremely important as it allows VicForests to discuss our harvesting plans with members of the community and address particular concerns they might have regarding the operations which are proposed.

"All community feedback is provided to DSE for consideration when the final proposed Timber Release Plans are submitted for approval.

Mr Sedunary said the Timber Release Plans detail the proposed timing of harvesting operations, the location of access roads to be constructed and any other relevant information.

"TRPs list both the areas VicForests is currently harvesting and those it plans to harvest in the future.

"The plans also list areas which are regenerating following previous harvesting activities before being handed back to DSE for ongoing management.

"The TRP planning process is particularly detailed and comprehensive, and looks to ensure the long-term sustainability of the forestry industry in Victoria," he said.

The public consultation period begins on Wednesday, March 9th and runs until Wednesday, April 6th 2011. Further information is available on the VicForests website - www.vicforests.com.au

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