



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**Friday 4 November 2005**

### **Auction open for sale of forest timber**

An auction for the sale of sawlogs, firewood and fencing timbers in commercial lots from Gippsland State Forests will be conducted this month, with further auctions to be conducted in the future.

The State Government's 2003 Policy *'Our Forests, Our Future'* indicated that all sales of commercial forest produce would take place on an open market basis. The auctions are a step toward this.

Private cutting for domestic firewood will be unaffected under the new arrangement for commercial sales and will continue on the current basis through the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

VicForests Regional Manager, West Gippsland, Mr Nathan Trushell explained that the rights to commercial quantities of firewood on specific areas of State Forests in Gippsland will be offered. The company will sell approximately 50,000 cubic metres of timber of various grades.

"At specified logging areas, commercial cutters will be offered the choice of purchasing the timber off-site as part of the normal logging operation or they may choose to cut up the logging residue onsite for firewood and other products, such as posts and poles," Mr Trushell said.

Mr Trushell added, "As well, there will be a limited number of coupes offered specifically for the production of commercial quantities of posts, poles, split timbers and firewood."

"This is in recognition that farmers and others in rural communities are looking for bush timbers and there are a few commercial cutters still providing these products."

Mr Trushell pointed out that in all cases, cutters must have a current Forest Operator Licence, a prepared safety plan and they must be able to demonstrate compliance with all environmental requirements.

"All commercial operations must, as a minimum be able to show that they meet safety and environmental requirements", Mr Trushell said "As well, cutters must be able to demonstrate they are managing a commercial business and must take a specified minimum volume."

The introduction of the auction process could well lead to an expansion of sales of produce. Commercial cutters will have a surety of supply and the rights to large quantities of timber, meaning that they can build markets.

Mr Trushell said that this would result in more sought after products being taken off logging areas, further reducing waste.

The auction will be conducted via a sealed bid system. Prospective bidders can obtain auction documents from [gary@foreststrategy.com.au](mailto:gary@foreststrategy.com.au) or by phone on 0428 408 144. Briefings for bidders will be held in Bairnsdale and Erica, during November.

**ENDS**

***Further information please phone Nathan Trushell, 03 51722 133 or 0429 176568.***