

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Friday 24 November 2006

Mt Stirling timber harvesting to resume

Timber harvesting will resume in early December two kilometres west of King Saddle, Mt Stirling, as part of the 2006/07 season, in a 25 hectares area of Alpine Ash within the Mansfield State forest.

The harvesting will require some road closures, particularly when the operation moves close to the roadside, to ensure that public safety is not compromised.

“We have been working with local tourism operators, Four Wheel Drive Victoria, Mansfield Shire and the Visitor Information Centre, to endeavour to notify the large numbers of visitors to the area about the road closures and the presence of log trucks,” said VicForests Senior Forest Officer, Peter Scales.

Circuit Road will be closed during harvesting, between Mt Number Three Road and King Basin Road, during weekdays, with the exception of public holidays and the school holidays. However, access to popular destinations such as Craig’s Hut and Pineapple Flat will remain open, albeit with some additional travel time, via alternative routes such as Howqua Gap.

“The Alpine Ash harvested in this area is a beautiful straight-grained timber that is used for windows, doors, flooring, joinery and furniture,” Mr Scales said.

“The residual products from the narrow, limby head branches will be utilised for paper production at an Australian-owned exporting company based at Geelong,” he said.

Harvesting in this area is expected to conclude in February 2007, and it will be regenerated in autumn.

The harvesting crew will then shift further around the Circuit Road to the Black Landing Track area. This operation will require Black Landing Track to be closed, however King Basin Road provides alternative access to the King River area.

A copy of the fact sheet ‘Timber Harvesting at Mt Stirling’ can be obtained at the Mansfield Visitor Information Centre or at the VicForests website www.vicforests.com.au/ind-fr-abou-frame.html and clicking on ‘Publications’.

The Mt Stirling coupes are available for harvest under the North East Forest Management Plan. Coupes are identified as part of a long-term planning process, which ensures harvesting is sustainable through time. Native timber harvesting in the Mt Stirling area dates back to the 1950s.

ENDS

Further information, please contact Peter Scales, Senior Forest Officer, Mansfield telephone 5733 1230.