



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**22 October 2007**

### **SALVAGE PROGRAM TO RESUME**

Timber harvesting will resume next month in the Alpine Ash forests around Mansfield as part of VicForests' fire salvage program.

The need to recover high-value timber from these areas prior to it deteriorating is a direct result of the 2006/07 Great Divide Wildfires and is a key priority of VicForests and the State Government.

Salvage areas include Mt Stirling, Mt Skene, Carters Road and Bald Hill.

To ensure that public safety is not compromised, the harvesting will require a number of forest road closures, particularly when the operation moves closer to the roadside.

VicForests' CEO, David Pollard, said staff have liaised with key stakeholders regarding the harvesting program and public safety.

"Staff have been working with local tourism operators, Four Wheel Drive Victoria, Mansfield Shire and the Visitor Information Centre, in an effort to notify the large numbers of visitors to the Mt Stirling area about the road closures and the presence of log trucks," he said.

Circuit Road will be closed during harvesting, between Clear Hills Track and Corn Hill as will Logging Road, during weekdays, with the exception of public holidays.

Access to destinations such as Craig's Hut and Pineapple Flat will remain open with access along Circuit Road to the north or via the King River side of Mt Stirling.

Visitors to these areas are reminded that due to the presence of log trucks in these areas, care should be taken at all times. Harvesting in this area is expected to continue through until late May 2008.

The cartage route for the salvage harvesting operation at Bald Hill, north east of Merrijig, includes Greenways Road, Buttercup Road and School Lane. This operation is expected to be completed by early January.

A detailed fact sheet 'Timber Harvesting at Mt Stirling' can be obtained at the Mansfield DSE Office and the Mansfield Visitor Information Centre.

**ENDS**

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