

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Friday 2 November

INCREASED LOG TRUCK TRAFFIC

Residents and visitors to the Buckland Valley are advised that additional log trucks will be present on local roads over the coming months due to VicForests' salvage harvesting program.

Salvage of Alpine Ash killed during last summers wildfire on the Tea Tree Range has already commenced which will see timber carted along the Tea Tree Range Road, Selwyn Creek Road, and Buckland Valley Road.

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

VicForests, responsible for managing harvest and haulage of native forest timber from State forests, will continue the salvage program through until mid 2008.

VicForests' CEO, David Pollard, said salvage operations generate significant social and economic value for the state of Victoria and called for patience on the roads during this time.

"The operations have a significant social impact on the broader community, providing local jobs as well as generating revenue for the State. But there will be an increase in the number of log trucks needed to carry out the salvage program so I urge everyone to take care on the roads.

"Trucks will utilise the UHF channel 40 to alert fellow road users of their locations.

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

For further information contact VicForests Ovens office on 57 311 202.

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