

Thursday 12th March 2009

Forest Industries Community Fund receives kick start from VicForests

VicForests today pledged more than \$50,000 towards the Forest Industries Community Relief Fund, which is aimed at assisting bushfire affected communities.

The Fund, established by the National Association of Forest Industries, the Victorian Association of Forest Industries, Timber Communities Australia and the Australian Forest Contractors Association, was formed specifically to help timber communities directly affected by the recent bushfires to rebuild their homes and businesses.

Every year VicForests contributes towards a variety of charities and community projects. These funds build up across twelve months from penalties incurred by contractors where they do not comply with specific industry regulations.

This year the monies raised through these penalties will go directly to the Forest Industries Community Relief Fund, where they can be used for providing emergency shelter and food supplies as well as assisting with rebuilding properties and infrastructure.

VicForests CEO, David Pollard, said: "The Fund is a positive step to help the industry come together to provide support to those who have been directly affected by the fires.

"We hope that our contribution will play a part in assisting the Victorian timber communities during this difficult time, and help the individuals who have suffered major losses as a result of the fires."

For further information about VicForests visit the website at www.vicforests.com.au or call 03 9608 9500.

Media Contact: Emma Rennison

T: 03 9608 9562 F: 03 9608 9588 E: emma.rennison@vicforests.com.au W: www.vicforests.com.au

Notes to editors

For further information please contact Emma Rennison on 03 9608 9562 or emma.rennison@vicforests.com.au