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VicForests thinning contracts secured by local business

East Gippsland-based harvest and haul contracting business Beveridge's Logging Company Pty Ltd has secured, through a competitive tender process, contracts for thinning harvest and haulage on behalf of VicForests for the next 2.5 years.

Commencing on 01 January 2010, Beveridge's new contracts will result in 93,000 tonnes of native forest thinnings harvested annually from the Nowa Nowa, Bendoc, Orbost and Cann River forests.

"Thinning of regrowth forests plays a valuable role in East Gippsland in accelerating growth of future sawlogs, while also providing high-quality pulpwood", stated Barry Vaughan, VicForests Regional Manager, East Gippsland.

"A competitive tender process was the most appropriate, fair and transparent mechanism to establish ongoing commercial arrangements to replace the expiring contracts", Barry said.

A pioneer of thinning in East Gippsland in the early 90's, Beverage's Logging Company Director, Malcolm Beveridge said, "The awarding of these contracts not only gives us continuing involvement in the Gippsland area, but has provided us with the opportunity for machinery upgrade and replacement and to expand our thinning operations. We look forward to greater flexibility to move specialist harvest equipment and our haul fleet around to better deal with changing conditions."

VicForests was established by the Victorian Government in August 2004 as an independent, commercial entity responsible for the sustainable harvest and sale of timber from State forests in eastern Victoria.

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