

Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 2011

## Forests NSW visits Victorian forests

Staff from VicForests and Forests NSW have taken part in a workshop to discuss the processes used to develop timber harvesting plans in Victoria's State forests.

VicForests' Director, Planning, Lachlan Spencer, said the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences was extremely valuable for both organisations.

"VicForests' staff outlined the procedures which are in place to ensure the harvesting of Victoria's forests remains sustainable," Mr Spencer said.

"Our Resources staff use detailed information to indicate how much forest is available and the appropriate level of harvesting. VicForests' Tactical Planning staff then create Timber Release Plans which outline which specific areas will potentially be harvested in the next three to five years.

"The key step in this process is ensuring the planned harvest levels match the pre-determined sustainable harvest levels.

"This enables VicForests to ensure its harvesting rates are sustainable both now, and in the long term.

"VicForests' staff also showcased our approach to assessing forested areas prior to harvest to identify available timber volumes, biodiversity and other non-timber related values.

"The workshop was an opportunity to demonstrate how VicForests' uses technology to improve the transparency and efficiency around the development of coupe plans and other significant information," he said.

The workshop was followed by a tour of VicForests' operations around Healesville and Toolangi to observe forest management practices first hand.

"VicForests Tactical Planning staff visited Forests NSW operations in Coffs Harbour earlier in the year and our staff jumped at the chance to highlight the systems and procedures used here in Victoria," Mr Spencer said.

"Seeing forest management practices in action in other States is particularly valuable and allows our industry to gain an understanding of different ways to deal with various challenges and issues.

"Forestry remains a complex industry which is continually evolving to improve its environment and commercial outcomes.

"Sharing ideas and broadening our knowledge base is vital in ensuring Australia remains a world leader in sustainable forest management practices," he said.

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