

Plantation Timber is no substitute for Native Timber

A recent industry review has emphasised the importance of native forests to Victoria's timber industry.

The review, by respected industry analysts Pöyry Management Consulting, has confirmed that Victoria cannot transition to plantation-only timber without a subsequent increase in imports.

Much of the timber from Victoria's plantations is used for different purposes to that from our native forests and these two sources complement, rather than replace, each other.

Pöyry's review identified significant differences between plantation timber and native forest timber, including:

- Hardwood plantation sawlogs are not usually of sufficient quality and quantity to produce appearance grade products
- The harvesting of appearance grade native timber also generates pulp log because both

types of timber are produced from the same tree

- Victoria's hardwood plantation estate is based around Blue Gum, a species which is not sought after for appearance grade products

Recent calls from some conservation groups for the Victorian timber industry to be supplied solely by plantations appear to have overlooked these key considerations.

The Pöyry review highlights that if native forest sawlog was not available then our demand for appearance grade timber would be met by imported hardwood which may come with questionable environmental credentials.

Victoria's sustainable native timber industry harvests and re-grows less than 0.1% of our native forest estate each year.

For a copy of the Pöyry Management Consulting review refer to www.vicforests.com.au



Training with Indigenous Groups improves cultural understanding

Over 40 VicForests operational staff in both East Gippsland and the Central Highlands have participated in the first 'Indigenous Cultural Awareness Program' to assist with the identification of culturally significant sites in the forest, both above and below ground. The Program was delivered by members of the Wurundjeri group in Central Highlands and the Gunaikurnai in East Gippsland and was the first time these

indigenous groups provided direct input into the development of such cultural training programs. This training was previously coordinated by DSE and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

Nathan Trushell, VicForests' Director, Corporate Affairs, said the opportunity to meet and talk with local communities has been extremely valuable in improving our understanding of Indigenous culture and heritage.

VicForests' Publications

Take a look at the range of fact sheets and corporate publications on VicForests website

www.vicforests.com.au

Fact Sheets on Victoria's native timber industry, Protecting Victoria's native flora and fauna, Victoria's old growth forests, Regenerating Victoria's forests and Harvesting in Victoria's water catchments

VicForests **Annual Report** 2011

VicForests **Statement of Corporate Intent** 2011-12 to 2013-14 - a three year overview of our corporate plans

VicForests **Sustainability Report** - an overview of VicForests sustainability credentials (available online late November)



Orbost North Primary School principal, Jo Dacy, East Gippsland Shire Mayor Dick Ellis, VicForests Community Support Manager, Mick Sutton, and Local Member for East Gippsland, Tim Bull in front of some of the vegetable gardens funded by VicForests' Community Support Program.

Keep up to date with Twitter

VicForests has stepped into the big, bold world of Twitter - <http://twitter.com/#!/VicForestsComms>

Join us if you wish to hear VicForests' latest news and significant issues within the timber industry.



VicForests announces 2010/11 profit

VicForests has announced a net profit of more than \$2.3 million for the 2010/11 financial year. VicForests' Acting CEO, Robert Green, said the positive financial result is a significant achievement given the difficult global market conditions faced by the timber industry.

Mr Green said an improvement in pricing saw VicForests' operating revenue remain stable, despite production volumes dropping slightly.

VicForests' Annual Report highlights many of VicForests' achievements for the year, including a high level of compliance against DSE's expanded Forest Audit Program, the launch of VicForests' Community Support Program, assisting over 40 local community groups, and the appointment of a specialist conservation biologist to further enhance VicForests' management of biodiversity.

For a copy of the report refer to www.vicforests.com.au

New school resource: forestlearning.edu.au

A website has been launched to educate teachers and students about the role of forests and wood products to society. The aim of the website is to provide a resource for primary and secondary school teachers and educators, children and the public with information on Australian forests and forest-based products. The resource enables teachers to integrate forest education into their teaching programs across a range of key learning areas linked to the national school's curriculum, including science, history, geography, mathematics and technology.

The site has been designed in collaboration with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to ensure that the resources provided fit within the national school's curriculum, and support delivery through state and territory school syllabi.

For further information: www.forestlearning.edu.au

Supporting Local Communities

For a second year, VicForests has provided grants of up to \$2,000 to more than 35 local schools, community and sporting groups and local events within the regions in which we operate, through VicForests' Community Support Program. Groups which received financial support included the Orbost Snowy Rovers Football and Netball Club, Marlo Primary School, Upper Goulburn Community Radio, Yarra Glen and District Pony Club and Salvation Army, Healesville.

In addition, last financial year VicForests donated more than \$55,000 to Ambulance Victoria's 'Helimed One' paramedic air ambulance helicopter and rescue service to help save lives throughout regional communities in eastern Victoria. The total amount donated since 2007 is almost \$270,000.



Symposium illustrates forestry's sustainable future

University academics and members of the forest industry from across Australia have called for better education of the community regarding the vital role of Australia's sustainable forest industry.

Over 70 participants recently took part in a symposium to discuss the management and sustainable future for Australia's regrowth forests.

Dr Martin Moroni, a Carbon Scientist with Forestry Tasmania, emphasised the need for understanding that carbon is not permanently locked in our forests.

"While growing trees sequester carbon, events such as large scale bushfires and the natural decomposition of older trees actually releases carbon and CO₂ into the atmosphere," he said.

Rather than referring to our forests as static carbon 'sinks', Dr Moroni described these forests as 'carbon dams', in order to reflect their dynamic and changing nature as carbon is absorbed and released by trees.

Discussion themes included the future potential of the private native forest resource, the role of active management for reducing fire risk and the unique range of renewable hardwood products from regrowth forests.

The two-day Symposium included a field day in the wet mountain ash forests near Toolangi to view the outcomes of earlier thinning trials. The trials were conducted to improve timber productivity and assess the effect of tree stocking on water regulation and yields in the forested water catchments near Melbourne.

A synopsis of key symposium outcomes is being produced for a peer reviewed publication, as well as provide a basis for developing further work in this area at a national level.

VicForests' staff recognised for bravery

Jarrold Logue and Ray Mackey, along with staff from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, have been recognised with a Group Bravery Citation for their roles in the 2009 Black Saturday fires.

