

Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011

## World Environment Day acknowledges our forests

VicForests has welcomed celebrations to mark World Environment Day 2011 on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Nathan Trushell, VicForests' Director, Corporate Affairs, said the theme of the day, Forests: Nature At Your Service, highlights the vital role played by forests across the globe.

"We all know our forests produce the oxygen we breathe and help to fight climate change by storing carbon," Mr Trushell said.

"These same forests also provide us with a beautiful, natural and completely sustainable product – timber.

"It's important to distinguish between Victoria's sustainable timber harvesting practices and deforestation taking place overseas.

"No deforestation occurs in Victoria as a result of native timber harvesting.

"All areas which are harvested for timber are regrown to ensure trees re-establish and our forests can be utilised by future generations.

"Sustainably producing timber from our own well-managed forests is the only way we can reduce pressure on developing nations to provide the timber we use on a daily basis," he said.

Mr Trushell said forestry practices in Victoria are world class in relation to protecting environmental, social and cultural values.

"We have a native timber industry the community can rightly be proud of," he said.

"Less than 0.1% of Victoria's 7.8 million hectares of native forest is harvested and regrown each year for the sustainable production of timber.

"This harvesting plays an important role in meeting the increasing community demand for wood and wood products," he said.

"The seeds used to regrow harvested areas are sourced from local regions. This ensures the forest which grows back contains the same mix of species and the area returns as a healthy native forest.

"Victoria has a responsibility to continue to sustainably manage our forests for a variety of needs – including conserving important environmental values and producing timber to meet our needs," Mr Trushell said.

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