

# Media Release

14 September 2016

## Small scale timber harvesting in the Strathbogies

A low intensity timber harvesting operation will begin in the Strathbogies state forest on Monday, 19 September 2016.

VicForests' General Manager Planning, Nathan Trushell, said the operation will use the single-tree selection harvesting method.

"Single-tree selection harvesting is different from other harvesting methods as it removes a much smaller number of trees from an uneven aged forest.

"This style of harvesting has been chosen as a result of discussions between VicForests and the local community that have taken place over a number of years.

"Trees of different ages are selected for harvesting based on their diameter and condition with smaller and younger trees retained to grow on to the next harvest and older trees left for future species habitat.

"Both good quality trees will be removed for sawlog, to produce high quality timber flooring and furniture, and poorer quality mature trees will be removed to allow the younger trees to become future sawlogs.

"The intention of selective harvesting operations is to leave behind an uneven aged forest once harvesting has been completed and remaining trees are either retained as habitat trees or to continue to grow on," he said.

Mr Trushell said there has been a history of timber harvesting in the Strathbogies since the late 1800s however there has been no harvesting in the area since 2006/07.

"Some members of the community have expressed their concern about harvesting recommencing in the Strathbogies and requested a moratorium on all timber harvesting activities in the forest.

"We are unable to commit to no harvesting at all in the area as this would impact on our ability to meet our contractual obligations.

"But as a result of our discussions with the community and the concerns that have been raised, we have chosen to use the single-tree selection harvesting method," he said.

"The forest on the site will be re-established through a combination of retained trees, natural seedfall from these retained trees and proactively sowing native seed where needed.

"If any further work is required to ensure the area has successfully regrown, we will continue to treat the site until it has regenerated," Mr Trushell said.

The area to be harvested is around 27 hectares which will take around six weeks to complete.



# Media Release

VicForests carries out biodiversity and high conservation value assessments in all areas planned for harvest to identify and protect key ecological communities, threatened species and/or their habitat.