

Thursday June 11, 2015

VicForests seeks community consultation on changes to its TRP

VicForests is seeking comment from local community members on its proposed changes to the Timber Release Plan relating to timber harvesting operations in the North East, West Gippsland and East Gippsland regions.

The community consultation period begins on June 15 and runs through to July 10.

VicForests General Manager Planning, Nathan Trushell, said: "The Timber Release Plan outlines the areas VicForests is planning to harvest over a five year period and is updated annually.

"The changes proposed in 2015 include the modification of boundaries on existing areas based on improved planning information, the sustainable addition of new harvesting areas, and the removal of unharvested or regrown areas," he said.

Community feedback is sought on specific operational aspects of our proposed new harvesting locations or boundary changes. This process is an opportunity to provide comment regarding concerns with:

- The timing of harvesting operations;
- The use of particular haulage routes;
- The proximity of proposed harvesting to private property or public use areas; or
- The identification and protection of other forest values within specific harvesting sites.

"We welcome the community to raise any specific concerns they may have about the proposed operations. Public submissions are closely considered by VicForests' Planning staff before the plans are finalised," said Mr Trushell.

"Public consultation is an important part of this process and offers the community the opportunity to have important input in our planning process."

The finalised Timber Release Plans, along with all submissions received, are then submitted to the VicForests' Board of Directors for consideration and approval. These plans must be approved before harvesting commences and all operations are required to comply the detailed regulations which relate to native timber harvesting in Victoria.

"A key part of VicForests role is to also regrow the forest after harvesting is completed," said Mr Trushell.

"Areas which have successfully regrown after previous harvesting operations will also be removed from the Timber Release Plan as part of this amendment."

A Schedule of proposed coupes, maps indicating approximate locations and a feedback form for public comment are available on our website: www.vicforests.com.au/Proposedtrp

Submissions can also be provided via email to vfs.trp@vicforests.com.au or made in writing and sent to: VicForests, GPO Box 191, Melbourne, 3001 from **June 15th** until **July 10th, 2015**.