

Media Statement

10 October 2017

VicForests Media Statement responding to Murrindindi Shire statement calling for an end to timber harvesting in the Shire

Lachlan Spencer, VicForests General Manager Stakeholders and Planning said:

"The vast majority of Victoria's native forests will never be harvested. We harvest around 0.05% of Victoria's forests each year and regrow all areas with the same type of forest that was originally there.

"Murrindindi Shire falls within the Central Highlands Regional Forest Area. Work done by Deloitte Access Economics in 2015 shows the total economic activity generated as a result of native timber harvesting in the Central Highlands is \$573 million with a value add of \$357 million when taking into account primary processing.

"This activity also provides employment for more than 2,000 workers across the region. It is clear from this report that Victoria would be in a very different place without native timber harvesting in the Central Highlands. The employment we represent in regions such as Murrindindi creates positive social impacts for both job stability and economic returns to regional Victoria."

-ends