



Media Release

27 June 2016

Bush track closures in Alberton West

Four off road bush tracks in the Alberton West State forest will be temporarily closed as a result of forest thinning operations from 15 July to 1 October 2016.

The tracks affected include Coal Mine Road (in between Arnold Road and Ridge Road), Faulkner Road, Lizard Lane (in between Faulkner Road and Sextons Boundary Track) and Sextons Boundary Track.

Log trucks will be using Lizard Lane, Coal Mine Road and South Gippsland Highway during this period to transport the cleared timber to be processed. This will result in approximately two additional trucks per day.

VicForests encourages community members using roads in the area to be aware of an additional hazards or traffic and to take extra caution and follow instructions provided on the available signage for their own safety.

The impact of these road closures will be minimal as they access only a small area of state forest.

Forest thinning is an important part of responsible forest management that selectively removes up to 50 percent of a young growing forest in order to allow the remaining trees more space to grow bigger and taller.

Thinning usually takes place in 20-25 year old regrowth forest where predictions indicate the operation will generate viable commercial or economic returns.

This type of operation increases the amount of larger diameter sawlogs that will be available for final harvest. The trees that are left to grow will be harvested for high quality flooring and furniture in another 40-60 years' time.

Local contractors will be used in the harvesting and hauling of timber for this operation, with any high quality logs removed utilised by the sawmills in the area including the mill in Yarram.

Operations such as these are great for the local community as they provide employment for many local contractors. This operation will employ eight people directly and employ dozens of people indirectly.

During the thinning operations the public will not be permitted to enter the area as it will be protected under a public safety zone.