

Media Release

Friday, April 8 2016

Change in log truck movements

There will be an increase in the number of log trucks travelling through Yea and Alexandra following a decision by VicForests to suspend the use of the Black Spur by B Double log trucks.

VicForests' General Manager, Operations, Brad Winthrop, said the decision to stop B Double trucks using the Spur has been made following an internal safety audit.

"There have been no incidents involving log trucks on the Black Spur in recent times but we have made a decision to suspend the use of this road by B Double trucks while we undertake a broader review," Mr Winthrop said.

"Rather than heading south along the Black Spur through Healesville, trucks will now head west through Alexandra to Yea and travel via the Melba Highway.

"These areas will see an increase in log truck traffic and we have reinforced to our truck drivers the need to continue exercising caution when travelling near towns and built up areas.

"Smaller trucks without the B Double configuration will continue to use the Black Spur but larger trucks will be redirected to avoid this stretch of road.

"Safety remains our key priority.

"This is not a decision which has been made lightly and there will be significant costs to VicForests due to longer haulage times for our trucks and drivers, with our contractors also having to manage additional logistical issues," he said.

Mr Winthrop said VicForests will continue working with VicRoads to manage truck safety.

"A number of safety initiatives have been rolled out through our contractors in recent years including electronic braking systems, satellite tracking and improved reporting of incidents.

"We have chosen to suspend the use of the Black Spur by B Doubles as part of a review looking at the safe travel of log trucks from the forest to different mills across the region.

"It's important we look at this issue further to identify the safest routes for our trucks to travel on so that we can minimise the risks to truck drivers and the general public.

"This work will include liaising with VicRoads to ensure our trucks are using the safest and most efficient roads which have been designated for use by B Doubles.

VicForests will provide the community with further information regarding the use of the Black Spur by B Double log trucks when it becomes available.

