



# Media Release

5 June 2017

## VicForests Community Support Program open for applications

VicForests is inviting not for profit community groups and services to apply for a grant as part of its 2017 Community Support Program before the deadline of Friday 16 June 2017.

The Community Support Program has been designed by VicForests to assist regional community groups and services who are working to positively contribute to their local area.

Liz Langford, VicForests Regional Engagement Manager says the program has shown tremendous success since the initiative began seven years ago.

“Since we started the program in 2010, we’ve helped almost 200 community groups and services and have provided more than \$300,000 in grants and funding across the Central Highlands, Western Victoria, Gippsland and East Gippsland regions,” Ms Langford said.

“In 2016 we supported 50 small community groups around Victoria operating in isolated communities that otherwise struggle for funding and support.

“One recipient of last year’s Community Support Program was a food relief program in Baw Baw Shire that assists people in need by raising money through their Opportunity Shop.

“Another grant went towards funding a flood plain restoration project in the Cowarr area to improve the health of the river and to assist the local flora and fauna.

“Grants also assisted with a Community Centre in Cann River and a Youth Drop In Centre in Warburton.

“Our support program is very important to regional communities and to us. Our staff live and work in regional Victoria and contributing to local community groups and services is just part of what we do,” Ms Langford said.

The Community Support Program assists organisations that contribute to the wellbeing of local communities by providing grants of up to \$2 000 to organisations such as charity groups, sporting groups, educational and community groups located across the Central Highlands, West Victoria, Gippsland and East Gippsland regions.

The Victorian native forestry industry plays a key role in building and supporting rural and regional communities through its business activities and by sponsoring local community events and activities.

VicForests Community Support Program applications can be submitted online at [www.vicforests.com.au/csp2017](http://www.vicforests.com.au/csp2017)

Alternatively you can download an application form and send to the email provided on the form.