

Media Release

28 February 2017

VicForests seeks community consultation on the Timber Utilisation Plan

VicForests is seeking comment from local community members on its proposed Timber Utilisation Plan (formally Wood Utilisation Plan) relating to small-scale timber harvesting operations across Victoria.

The community consultation period begins on 20 February 2017 and runs through to 24 March 2017.

VicForests General Manager Stakeholders and Planning, Lachlan Spencer, said: "The Timber Utilisation Plan outlines the areas VicForests is planning to harvest for a period of up to three years and will be updated annually.

"The proposed Timber Utilisation Plan includes modifications of boundaries on existing areas based on improved planning information, the sustainable addition of new harvesting areas, and the exclusion of areas which are no longer required" he said.

Community feedback is sought on specific operational aspects of our proposed 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 Spencer.

"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 Utilisation Plan, 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 Schedule of proposed coupes, maps indicating approximate locations and a feedback form for public comment are available on our website: www.vicforests.com.au/timber-utilisation-plan-community-feedback-form

Submissions can also be provided via email to community.forestry@vicforests.com.au or made in writing and sent to: VicForests, GPO Box 191, Melbourne, 3001 from 20 February 2017 until 24 March 2017.

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