



Media Release

14 September 2017

VicForests welcomes community input

VicForests attended a community meeting in Mirboo North on Thursday 14 September to speak to local residents about planned operations in the area.

Lachlan Spencer, VicForests General Manager Stakeholders and Planning said that VicForests openly encourages input from the public into its operations.

“Every year, we formally call for public submissions through public advertisements into proposed operations over the next three to five years,” Mr Spencer said.

“This year we have added a more proactive approach of letter dropping, meeting local communities in areas of planned operations and reaching out to local groups.

“The first communities where we have taken this approach have been in Noojee and Mirboo North where there has been a strong community interest.

“We look forward to working together with the local Mirboo North community and developing our plans in a way that incorporates their feedback,” Mr Spencer said.

Mr Spencer said that encouraging input into its planning process is an important step in VicForests planning process.

“We are committed to providing community members the opportunity to have an input into our forestry practices,” he said.

VicForests welcomes the opportunity to talk to people they don't always hear from.

“In the last six months VicForests have conducted over 500 community conversations, attended 10 local events and received many hundreds of letters,” Mr Spencer said.

“We have also received a range of reports regarding threatened species which improved our planning process.

“We believe that forest planning needs to be a partnership between VicForests, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, science, interest groups and the local communities.

All VicForests proposed and approved operations can be viewed online via an interactive online mapping system.

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