

Tuesday, February 24 2015

## VicForests thanks community for interest

VicForests has thanked the community for attending an information event held in the Strathbogie State forest last weekend.

VicForests' Manager, Corporate Communications, David Walsh, said more than 50 people turned out to the event to discuss work planned to rehabilitate a site on the corner of Ferraris Rd and Barjarg Rd after harvesting.

"We recognise the interest the community has in the management of their local forests and it was really pleasing to see so many people come along on the weekend," Mr Walsh said.

"We have faced a number of issues in our previous attempts to regrow the forest after harvesting on the site where the event was held so it was important for us to be able to outline what the next steps are in ensuring the forest returns.

"The day was a chance for us to hear more about the community's specific concerns regarding the site and also explain the rehabilitation plans we have in place including work which will take place over the next few months.

"We understand why they are concerned and wanted to reinforce to those who came along that we won't be walking away from the site until the problems have been fixed.

"It was terrific so many people were able to take the time to visit the forest on a Sunday and we hope those who came along found the day valuable," he said.

Mr Walsh said the weekend's event was a follow up to the 'Open House' held in Strathbogie in 2014.

"We made a commitment to the community to continue discussions regarding their concerns and our plans for work in the Strathbogie Ranges," he said.

"Rather than do something again in a hall away from the forest, we wanted to visit an area of concern and be able to talk about the issues in the field.

"While the focus of the day was the rehabilitation work planned for the Ferraris site, there was discussion around a range of other issues including future harvesting plans, how timber from harvesting operations is used and the return of understory species to sites after harvesting.

"Those who did attend indicated they also wanted to understand more about the work to assess an area prior to harvesting and to also see examples of sites which have successfully regenerated after harvesting so we will look to schedule other events in the future," Mr Walsh said.

For more information regarding VicForests' operations the community can go to [www.vicforests.com.au](http://www.vicforests.com.au) including the Contact Us page for people who have specific queries.