Media Release

VicForests to manage small scale licences

VicForests has assumed responsibility for managing small scale timber harvesting licences in Victoria.

VicForests General Manager, Stakeholders and Planning, Nathan Trushell, said the licences were previously managed by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries' Forestry Services Unit.

"This change will not impact on timber supply to the community and customers in western Victoria, or to VicForests' existing customers," Mr Trushell said.

"What the change does is ensure all commercial harvesting in Victoria is now managed by one organisation.

"Licensees provide timber which goes towards floor boards, laminated timbers, posts and rails, construction and landscaping materials as well as firewood for heating homes.

"The community is unlikely to notice any difference on the ground with all operations being managed in line with existing licences.

"There will be no change to the current methods of harvesting in western Victoria with selection harvesting to remain as the predominant harvest method used.

"This change does not impact domestic firewood collection across Victoria with DEPI remaining responsible for managing the collection of firewood by the general public," he said.

Mr Trushell said the licensees include small scale operators through to sawmills.

"We look forward to working closely with licensees and maintain an important source of timber to local communities," he said.

"Some stakeholders have expressed concerns that harvesting will increase and others are worried that operations may be closed down.

"However, we intend to continue managing these operations in a similar fashion to the way they have been managed previously.

"Safety is a key focus for VicForests and we aim to not only ensure all operations continue to be undertaken safely but also ensure they are in line with regulations designed to protect key environmental values," Mr Trushell said.

For more information regarding VicForests' operations please go to www.vicforests.com.au

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