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MEDIA RELEASE

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Sustainable private native forest management discussed

A better understanding of the opportunities for owners of private native forest in East Gippsland to sustainably manage their forests emerged from a workshop held at Orbost last week. The workshop was jointly arranged by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Gippsland Private Forestry Inc. (GPF), and was attended by DPI and GPF staff, landowners with private native forest, along with representatives from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, East Gippsland Shire and the timber industry.

“The workshop heard that regeneration following past harvesting of areas of native forest on private land in East Gippsland had achieved a satisfactory standard on all sites sampled during a recent survey project undertaken by DPI and DSE” said GPF Executive Officer, Rob Willersdorf. “These results should give comfort to private native forest owners, industry regulators, and the community that native forest regeneration can be achieved by private landowners following harvesting for timber products on their land, particularly in the forest types that are likely to be permitted for harvesting.”

“Whilst most harvesting of native forest on private land needs a planning permit, the East Gippsland Shire, in consultation with DSE, does regularly grant permits for harvesting and regeneration of private native forest” said Mr Willersdorf. “Further, timber industry, DSE, GPF and Shire staff can provide landowners with advice about the prospects for harvesting and regeneration of their native forests and the process that is involved.”

The workshop heard presentations from DSE and Shire representatives on the current policy and statutory requirements relevant to private native forest owners, then learnt of the findings from the recent survey work undertaken on East Gippsland properties as part of an Sustainable Private Native Forest project funded by the Commonwealth and State governments. The workshop concluded with a vegetation assessment demonstration and a silviculture practices discussion by DSE staff in a forest area east of Orbost.

Any East Gippsland landowners wishing to discuss the opportunities for productive and sustainable management of their private native forest are invited to contact Gippsland Private Forestry Inc at Bairnsdale.

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Promoting sustainable, commercial private forestry development in Gippsland