

MEDIA RELEASE

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A Disappointing Christmas & A Doubtful New Year

AFCA members and forestry contractors in the East Gippsland and Central highlands regions of Victoria have been left with immediate stand-downs and uncertainty right before Christmas after a Supreme Court ruling this week. The ruling caused the immediate cessation of forestry operations within 240m of a Greater Glider sighting, even if that sighting has not been verified.

AFCA members take great pride in ensuring their operations do not impact the biodiversity of the forest, especially the Greater Glider. "We always have the Greater Glider in our thoughts" said Brad Meyer of Meyers Log Cartage talking with 3AW yesterday.

The ruling will immediately impact the crucial supply of wood reaching our regional mills and being processed into high-value building products and essential goods. The ruling will also impact the manufacture and supply of pallets.

"AFCA has a well-represented membership base in this region and they will receive my full attention over the coming months. I am devastated for our members The ruling could not have come at a more catastrophic time" said Carlie Porteous, General Manager AFCA.

AFCA is working very closely with VicForests on the matter. VicForests are committed to supporting those immediately impacted by re-organising operational schedules and coupe planning. Additionally, the VicForests CEO says that they will endeavour to bring forward compensation for those affected and that forestry contractors should continue to liaise with their Regional Operations teams.

If you have been impacted by the recent court decision, please reach out to Carlie at AFCA.

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Contact:

Carlie Porteous
General Manager
carlie@afca.asn.au
0438 873 307

