

## **Willmott Forests Fire Update**

**Friday 30 January 2009**

**To date no Willmott Forests' managed plantation has been affected by fire.**

A major group of fires (deliberately lit) have been reported within the **Darlimurla Road** area in close proximity east of the Boolarra and Yinnar towns in Gippsland.

The fire is burning within an approximate 3,000 hectares Hancock Victorian Plantations (HVP) plantation estate and has reportedly burnt over 1,000 hectares of mixed Pinus radiata age classes to date. Willmott Forests has approximately 465 hectares of young plantations (aged 1 - 2 years) within this immediate area, and it is apparent that given the size of this fire, some part of this plantation area may be lost in the days ahead.

HVP, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and other fire fighting agencies are in attendance. Given the location of this fire and the forecast for continued hot weather in the week ahead, this fire is considered to pose considerable risk.

In addition to the many fire fighters that are already actively fighting this fire, preparations are being discussed for the possible replacement / relief of fire fighters in the coming days should this fire continue to build into a campaign fire (sustainable ongoing fire). Willmott Forests' senior forestry team may take up an invitation by HVP to assist fire fighting efforts by sending Willmott Forests crews from our Murray Valley or Bombala regions in the days ahead.

At this stage no other fires are reported within Willmott Forests' other regions, although Willmott Forests crews remain in readiness should a fire start anywhere across our regions.

Information regarding the Gippsland VIC fires can be obtained from The Department of Sustainability and Environment website via the link below:  
<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenfoe.nsf/LinkView/519C51D981DAE41FCA257257000A5163E2ACC26BB87D6BFC4A2567CB000DB12D>

Further information can be obtained from the CFA in Victoria via the link below:  
[http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/incident\\_summary.htm](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/incident_summary.htm)