



## **Joint Media Release**

### **Brighton Town Hall Forum To Hear Debate On Logging in Water Supply Catchments**

The Melbourne Water Catchment Network (MWCN) has welcomed the announcement that the Victorian Local Government Association will conduct a Public Forum at the Brighton Town Hall on logging in water supply catchments.

“ The Forum will bring together key stakeholder groups to discuss concerns about current native forest logging practices in the Melbourne State forest water supply catchments and their impact on reducing the water supply for 3.6 million residents in Melbourne, MWCN spokesperson Ms Lenka O’Connor said.

**The Public Forum is to be held at the Brighton Town Hall from 6pm on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.**

Speakers will put the case in favour and against logging in water catchments as well as provide details of the relevant policies and reviews being conducted by the State Government. Speakers will include Chris Tipler from the MWCN, a speaker from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Phillip Dalidakis, CEO of the Victorian Association of Forest Industries, and former Barwon Water Board Member, Julie Hansen.

“ The desire for a forum follows recent resolutions passed by the Bayside City Council, the City of Port Phillip, Shire of Yarra Ranges, Whitehorse City Council and Moreland City Council calling for the State Government to ban logging within the Melbourne water catchment area”, the VLGA’s President Cr Beth Davidson said.

“ We are hoping a number of State MPs can attend the forum not only to hear a range of views but also to see why some Local Governments are questioning the wisdom of logging Melbourne’s water supply catchments, “ Cr Davidson added.

A number of councils have been presented with past scientific hydrology research that demonstrates a significant amount of water is being lost due to logging practices.

MWCN spokesperson Ms O’Connor predicted the Forum would be a lively exchange of views, noting that “ community and Local Government opposition to logging in the Geelong/Otways catchments was a key reason why the former Bracks Government banned logging in the Otways back in 2002.

VAFI CEO Phillip Dalidakis said he looked forward to attending the forum and dispelling some long held myths about timber production in the water catchment area.

“Some groups have run a smear campaign against timber production in catchment areas and I look forward to presenting the facts and allowing the truth to stand on its own merit,” Mr Dalidakis said.

People interested in attending the Forum must RSVP. More details available from the Victorian Local Governance Association on 03 9349 7999.

RSVP's to [vlga@vlga.org.au](mailto:vlga@vlga.org.au)

**For interviews:**

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