

ALP ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FOREST POLICY

Today Kevin Rudd announced the Federal ALP Forest Policy. ABC Online reported that the Federal Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd says there will not be any more protection for Tasmanian old-growth forests if Labor wins power at the next election.



Mr Rudd was in Tasmania this morning to unveil plans for a \$20 million support package for the forestry industry. He says a Labor government would not protect any Tasmanian forests not already included in Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) or the state's \$250 million Community Forest Agreement.

"The Tasmanian Community Forestry Agreement fully embraces the conservation objectives we hold near and dear as a party," he said. The plan includes a \$9 million development fund to increase forestry exports and \$8 million to help the industry adapt to the effects of climate change. Mr Rudd says a Labor government would also establish a forest industry skills council and a crackdown on illegal timber imports.

The issue is a sensitive one in Tasmania, where former Labor leader Mark Latham's forestry policy cost the party at least one seat at the last election. The Forestry Union, which backed the Coalition at the last election, says Labor will now have its full support. View TCA Press Release by [clicking here](#).

Picture Above: L-R: Sid Sidebottom (Federal ALP Candidate for Braddon), Christine O'Connor (President of TCA Hellyer Branch), Kevin Rudd (Federal ALP Opposition Leader) & Adrian Coward (Northern Tasmanian State Manager)