

MEDIA RELEASE



**Timber Communities
Australia Ltd**

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“East Gippsland Forest Protest, the madness of environmental theology ”

Summer holidays and its protest season again. A few weeks up a tree sit or manning a barricade and the easily duped within our society will have uncaringly driven another nail in the coffin of rural Australia.

Peter Lezaich, TCA East Gippsland Coordinator today said, “once again the security of our rural communities is being threatened by the vindictive actions of a small group of environmental extremists in the blind pursuit of their doctrine.”

The actions of these extremists is evidence of their complete and utter abandonment of science and disregard for the ecology of the forests that they claim to care for.

As a mature society we rightfully celebrate the lives our elderly and the contribution that they have made to our lives and our wellbeing. We recognise that each of us lives a finite life, passing through many stages, including old age and ultimately death. We recognise this life cycle in all living things, only the time frame changes for each species.

Ecologically old growth forests are nearing the end of their lives, and whilst we rightly celebrate them for their beauty and the contribution they make to providing habitat for other species, the finite nature of their lives needs also to be recognised. Old growth is only one phase in the life of a eucalypt forest and a wholistic forest management approach, that gives equal weighting to all forest growth stages, is required to maintain a healthy and fully functioning eucalypt ecosystem.

The pursuit of old growth by environmental theologians is an irrational and dangerous drive to manipulate the makeup of our forests in pursuit of some never expressed or articulated goal.

“This is a demonstration of their irrational adherence to an imported environmental theology, that promotes non-scientific, dangerous beliefs ahead of the wellbeing of our society as a whole, the future of our rural communities and the broader health of our forest estate” said Peter Lezaich today.

Once again timber workers, their families and the small rural communities that they support are at risk. Their livelihoods and those that rely on the income they produce are once more being held hostage by the ring-ins and rent-a-crowd, manipulated in their ignorance by environmental extremists.

“I would urge anyone who has an interest in the sustainable management of our forests to regularly visit the East Gippsland Forests over the next decade and witness first hand the magnificent way that our native forests regenerate in response to world class silviculture and forest management” said Peter Lezaich today.

Ends

Peter Lezaich 0427 211 406