

MediaRelease



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PROTESTERS THREATEN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Anti-logging protesters are continuing to threaten the livelihood of timber workers; their families and dependent communities in Far East Gippsland said Timber Communities Australia today.

“Extreme environmentalists have staged another illegal protest in the Bendoc region of Far East Gippsland halting timber workers from undertaking their legal right to work”, said Mrs Kersten Gentle, Victorian State Manager of grassroots national organisation Timber Communities Australia.

“The harvesting coupe they are illegally protesting in is a high quality sawlog operation which feeds three sawmills in the regions small communities and directly affects in excess of 100 families that have responsibilities to mortgages and feeding their families”, Mrs Gentle said.

“Harvesting contractors have huge repayments to make on their equipment and have been given promises by the Bracks Government under the Our Forests Our Future policy that they will be allowed to work in a safe work environment”.

“No other workers in Victoria are forced to endure these illegal breaches of workplace safety and yet, simply because timber workers are suffering, no one including the Government seems to care”, Mrs Gentle said.

“The protesters not only choose to put their own lives at risk but they also cost taxpayers thousands of dollars and put other Victorian’s at risk as Search and Rescue officers needlessly travel to East Gippsland to *free* the protesters from their own lock on’s”, said Mrs Gentle.

“It is 4 years since the Bracks Government announced their Our Forest Our Future Policy which gave assurances to timber workers that not only would they have a future in Victoria but they would also be able to work in a safe working environment”.

“Why then, 4 years later are protests continuing and the Brack’s Government is continuing to ignore the rights of timber workers and their families”.

“We call on the Bracks State Government to get tough on these so called environmentalists who sponge of the system, break the law and simply have no regard for anyone besides themselves. Mr Brack’s, timber workers pay taxes and deserve your support”, concluded Mrs Gentle

For further information call:

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