

MediaRelease



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FEDERAL FORESTRY MINISTER JOINS TIMBER COMMUNITIES TO CELEBRATE WORLD FORESTRY DAY

The Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry & Conservation, Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz will join timber workers and their families from the Green Triangle region to celebrate World Forestry Day in Mt. Gambier on Tuesday 21st March, 2006.

“The Green Triangle region is home to one of Australia’s largest timber regions. It is fantastic that, Minister Abetz has decided to celebrate World Forestry Day in this region, concluding with a dinner in Mt. Gambier”, said Mrs Kersten Gentle from the national grassroots organisation Timber Communities Australia.

“Minister Abetz will visit a harvesting operation, tour local sawmills and meet with representatives from different sectors of the industry during the day ensuring he understands all the issues surrounding the industry.”

“The Green Triangle timber industry employs 8765 people directly and indirectly, contributes to 30% of the GRP of the regions primary industries and employs 23% of the entire regions primary industries jobs”.

“For the past 35 years, the 21st March has been designated as a day to celebrate World Forestry Day. It is a day in which we remind communities of the importance of forests and the many benefits which we gain from them”, Mrs Gentle said.

“The industry within the Green Triangle is growing rapidly with bluegum plantations due to be harvested from 2010 and with the proposals to build two world class pulp mills in the region, skilled employment will rise resulting in huge socio-economic benefits to all communities within the region”, Mrs Gentle said.

“About 100 people will join the Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry & Conservation and Federal Members Patrick Secker and David Hawker at the Commodore on the Park Motel at 7pm to celebrate World Forestry Day this Tuesday the 21st March, 2006,” concluded Mrs Gentle

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