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CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT BACKS FORESTRY AND WOOD FIRE POWER TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING

A new report by the Allen Consulting Group commissioned by the Business Roundtable, which is convened by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), and includes BP, IAG, Origin Energy, Swiss Re, Visy and Westpac, demonstrates that forestry will act as a carbon sink for Greenhouse gases.

The report is titled *Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, it is based upon modelling of climate change by the CSIRO, it also advocates the development of renewable biomass power to meet future electricity needs.

Harvesting residue from sawlog and pulp wood production would make an ideal source of biomass for power stations providing a renewable energy source to coal.

“With this report predicting that “*forestry will thrive*” is good news for communities that depend on the sustainable harvest of our forests and plantations.” Mr Barry Chipman, Tasmanian State Manager of Timber Communities Australia said today.

It is about time the extremists of the green movement acknowledged the environmental credentials of sustainable timber harvesting, and how it is eco- friendly in combating greenhouse gases.

The report outlines that there is a possibility of catastrophic climate events unless we act now to reduce greenhouse gases by switching to renewable energy.

The report predicts that some industries will suffer, but sees a strong future for forestry and diversification of value to include carbon credits.

Instead of vilifying forest workers and their families, those that care about our global future should be treating timber workers as heroes in the fight to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Without growing more trees, Australia will have no hope in meeting its Kyoto targets, without increasing renewable energy from biomass such as wood; we will have no hope in maintaining future national income.

“This report should be a major step forward in ending the divisive debates on forestry, all Australians need to work together to encourage the forest industry to provide sinks for greenhouse gasses and provide clean, green and renewable power.” Mr Chipman concluded.

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Refer page 6 of *Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions* report