



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

**MESSAGE: TIMBER COMMUNITIES AUSTRALIA -
PARLIAMENTARY BREAKFAST – 11 MAY 2006**

I am pleased to welcome Timber Communities Australia and its members and guests. I would like to particularly welcome the representatives of the proposed Penola and Heywood pulp mills, two developments which will be highlighted during this morning's discussion.

As will be outlined to you today, the government is committed to developing Australia's timber resources and generating economic wealth and jobs in a sustainable way. The government is particularly interested in value adding for industries such as timber and the social and economic growth that this creates for local communities and regional economies.

It is encouraging to hear that significant investments in pulp mills are proposed for the Penola and Heywood regions, investments which will in turn enhance employment opportunities. I particularly note the Penola proposal will lead to improvements in freight rail services and roads in the local areas in South Australia.

I extend my best wishes to all attending this morning's breakfast and hope that you have an informative and enjoyable morning.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Howard".

(John Howard)