



**Support for
The families of timber harvesting and transport contractors
in our sustainable timber industry**

Timber Communities Australia wishes to affirm its support for timber dependent contractors and their families affected by the recent downturn in sales for both sawn timber and chip wood.

While there have been a number of factors causing this downturn such as the high value of the Australian dollar, a faulty energy rating system, international shipping scheduling and market competition, the major factor is undoubtedly the campaign waged against Tasmania's timber dependent families by the Green movement in Tasmania, nationally and internationally.

However, the reasons for the downturn provide cold comfort for the family contracting businesses, their employees and communities that are suffering from the current situation. We urge all Tasmanians including the marketing and finance sectors to support these family contractors during these difficult times and hope that the downturn is short lived.

With the announcement of new domestic wood processing developments, there is hope that the cyclical nature of the local, national and international market may be cushioned in the future.

It is also hoped that the Federal and State Governments' promotion of the outstanding conservation achievements of the Tasmanian Community Forestry Agreements becomes more effective in the international market place to counter the misleading Green campaign.

TCA is disappointed that *The Mercury's* chief reporter Sue Neales has chosen to use comments made by our State Manager in an unrelated conversation on Friday 5 May 2006, in her articles published in recent days. These comments have been quoted out of context and misconstrued by the reporter. In no way were the comments directed at timber dependent contractors involved in today's timber industry. Barry views these people as the heart and sole of our world-class timber industry.

The use of old comments in a current story, made when Barry Chipman was not made aware of the subject matter of the proposed article, has undoubtedly added to the distress that families of contractors and timber workers are experiencing. He has offered to provide current and in-context comments to *The Mercury*, but this offer has not been taken up by the reporter.

TCA apologises to contractors and their workers for any distress caused by this journalist using the general industry comments made by Barry Chipman and then selectively quoting them out of context in recent articles about the difficult times being faced by timber dependent families, suppliers and communities. TCA has always supported forest workers, their families and communities and this support will continue and strengthen in the future.

Barry Chipman
State Manager

Timber Communities Australia

Owen Muskett
Tasmanian Board Member

Timber Communities Australia

Jill Lewis
National Director

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