

MediaRelease



5th June, 2006

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY PROTEST BARKS UP THE WRONG TREE

The Wilderness Society has once again failed to recognise the real threats to the world's environment on World Environment Day said national grassroots community organisation Timber Communities Australia (TCA) today.

“Playing with emotion the Wilderness Society has used World Environment Day (WED) to raise funds for their upcoming election campaign without answering the vital questions of where will our wood and paper needs come from, if not from Victoria's sustainably managed forests”, said Mrs Kersten Gentle, Victorian State Manager of TCA.

“WED is a day in which we can raise issues that threaten the worlds environment, not line the pockets of so political organisations masquerading as environment groups”, said Mrs Gentle

“Australia has a \$2 billion trade deficit on wood and paper products and the Wilderness Society wants to stop harvesting Victoria's sustainable forests and therefore risk the increase in stolen timber from third world countries”.

“Australia does not have the plantations to meet the needs of our high quality timber products derived from native forests and with a \$2 billion trade deficit we should be looking at ways to increase our timber production, not substitute it with inferior products”, Mrs Gentle said.

“People are part of the environment, we are on this planet and we therefore must look at ways to work hand in hand. This means sustaining the environment whilst sustaining communities. We cannot walk away from the families in timber communities who have faced a 30% cut in resource over the past few years.”

“Victoria should stand up proud and tall on World Environment Day when it comes to forest practices and turn the focus on illegal logging that really does threaten the Worlds Environment in third world countries”, concluded Mrs Gentle.

For further information call:

Kersten Gentle
TCA Victorian State Manager
0418 331 465

Timber Communities Australia - ABN. 33 008 665 736
P.O. Box 246 • Healesville Victoria 3777 • Phone (03) 5962 1874 • Fax (03) 5962 1873
victca@virtual.net.au • <http://www.tca.org.au>