

MEDIA RELEASE



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“Greens - extremists not conservationists”

Timber Communities Australia (TCA), the national grassroots community organisation, once again exposes green extremists for their lies and blatant misrepresentation of the truth about forest management.

This weekends planned protest action, in Eden on the far south coast of NSW, is a cynical attempt to discredit the socially, economically and ecologically sustainable management of our south east forests and to shut down a vibrant and legitimate industry.

Timber Communities Australia, NSW State Manager, Peter Lezaich today noted that “for over three decades now these green extremists have been spreading their lies about the management of our south east forests and have yet to produce one legitimate, independent piece of research to support their position. Why? because they cannot. For all their rhetoric they have never put their money where their mouth is and funded any independent research of the quality required to support their claims”.

The legislative and operational framework that underpins all forests management in NSW is founded on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM). ESFM plans are available for both the Eden and South Coast management areas and are public documents that outline the management intent of the State Forests on the South Coast of NSW.

“The figures speak for themselves, 74% of public forest in the South Coast and Eden management areas are managed for conservation under the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system. Whilst 18% of all public forest is managed as multiple use forest including wood production and conservation” said Peter Lezaich today.

The magnificent regrowth forests in the South East National Park were once working forests. These forests were identified as being of high conservation value during the Regional Forests Agreement process. A drive through this new National Park reveals the stumps and other evidence of past harvesting for wood production.

“This and other examples abound in the forests of the south east. Clearly multiple use management, including timber production, is complementary conservation and not only supplements our National Parks but in many cases becomes part of them” said Peter Lezaich.

The greens fundamentalists, like fundamentalists everywhere, can only see their own point of view and are blind to the evidence before them. TCA calls on the community to come to the south east and see conservation in action, and witness its many forms including multiple use forest management. Ends

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