

MEDIA RELEASE



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“Greens Exposed in Emperors New Clothes”

Timber Communities Australia (TCA), the national grassroots community organisation, was witness today to the complete debacle that 30 combined green groups (refer to list) called a protest, including all of the so called peak green groups in NSW.

With months of preparation and advertising by these green groups calling for a mass rally at the Eden woodchip mill today, it was clear that more people attended Mass last Sunday than attended the rally in Eden. When barely 300 people could bother to turn up it is time that these groups stop wasting public money on what is clearly a non-issue.

Peter Lezaich, Timber Communities Australia, NSW State Manager said “I attended today’s rally to get a feel for just how many people were really opposed to the sustainable management of our forests and I was not surprised to witness such a poor turn out, the greens must be absolutely devastated with this reality check.”

The broader community are absolutely fed up with the constant lies that are being pedalled to them by a very small group of people, who once again have been shown to have no real supporter base.

TCA calls on these groups to recognise that the wishes of the mainstream community have been met by the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process, with over 75% of all public forests in the south east now within the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve network.

“The sustainability of the forest management of the south east forests of NSW has been independently reviewed and approved on many occasions, including the rigorous RFA process”, said Peter Lezaich.

All timber harvesting operations are subject to strict legislation and regulation. If the management was not sustainable the NSW National Parkes and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of NSW would not have given their approval.

Indeed less than 1/20th of 1% of all public forests in the south east of NSW are likely to be harvested in any given year.

“Today’s very poor turnout should send a clear message to all the green politicians who attended the rally, they should concentrate on issues that are really important, such as environmental weeds and feral animals in our National Parks” said Peter Lezaich.

Ends

Peter Lezaich 0427 211 406

Sponsors of today's rally (from woodchipping sux web site)

Australian Students Environment Network

Australian Conservation Foundation

Advocacy and Monitoring Network on Sustainable Development, Japan

Bega Environment Network

Canopy

Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra

Chipstop

Coastwatchers

Ecology Action

Environment East Gippsland

Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Japan

Friends of the Earth

Friends of Five Forests

Forest Alliance Victoria

Googerah Environment Centre

Hutan Group, Japan

Japan Tropical Action Network

Nature Conservation Council

National Parks Association of NSW

Peaceful Action Network

South East Region Conservation Alliance

South East Forest Rescue

Southern Forest Watchers

The Greens, NSW

The Colong Foundation

Tilba Ecology Network

Total Environment Centre

The Rainforest Information Centre

Wildlife Protection Association of Australia