

# ***MEDIA RELEASE***



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Thursday 6 July 2006.

## **“Green politics - Chicken Little Syndrome”**

Timber Communities Australia (TCA), the national grassroots community organisation, condemns the latest attacks on families by Tasmanian Senator Kerry Nettle, NSW Greens MLC Lee Rhiannon and ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey.

The ongoing campaign to shut down the sustainable forest industry in south east NSW has reached a new low, with continuing calls from green politicians to close the South East Fibre Exports (SEFE) woodchip mill in Eden.

Citing foreign ownership and annual profits as their motive for shutting down the Eden woodchip mill, the green troika of Nettle, Rhiannon and Foskey have exposed themselves as anti family, anti community, anti business and anti environment!

“For sure SEFE is making a profit, its what every business strives to do and in doing so it has invested over \$20 million in their Eden business and paid Australian taxes of \$120 million in the past six years, as well as incurring operating costs of approximately \$300,000 each day” said Peter Lezaich, NSW TCA State manager.

No other business is investing so much in the local area and providing the levels of employment, for both staff and contractors. The spin off for the community can be measured in increased investment by government, in health services, policing and education.

“What do these so called green politicians want? Will they next insist that no company may repatriate their profits into or out of Australia? Will the green trio insist that Toyota not be allowed to pay its shareholders or that BHP keep all its profits in the country in which they were made, rather than paying dividends to their Australian shareholders?” asked Mr Lezaich

The benefits of sustainable forest management are being spread far and wide, from Ulladulla to Bairnsdale; and it is local families, communities and businesses that are the recipients of the economic activity that the greens are so determined to stop.

Incapable of debating the sound science that underpins the sustainable management of our south east Forests, this threesome have yet again descended into the unseemly practice of demonising the people, businesses and products of sustainable forests management.

Mr Lezaich said that with over 74% of all public native forests in the south of NSW now within the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system, and 100% of public native forest being managed for conservation outcomes, the broader community is well and truly fed up with the constant whinging and tales of doom and gloom coming from green politicians”.

Nettle, Rhiannon and Foskey are suffering from ‘Chicken Little Syndrome’. Our south east forests are not disappearing, they are healthy and vigorously growing the wood products of tomorrow, as well as providing vital habitat for our flora and fauna, clean drinking water and recreational opportunities.

Peter Lezaich concluded by noting that this trio of politicians lacked a basic understanding of forest science and seemed incapable of recognising the truth that our forest are renewable, are regenerated and contribute to the social economic and environmental wellbeing of our community.

Ends

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