

MEDIA RELEASE



**Timber Communities
Australia Ltd**

NSW State Office

ABN 33 008 665 736

PO Box 7454

Fisher ACT 2611

Ph: 02 6288 5188

Fax: 02 6288 5352

Mobile: 0427 211 406

Email: nsw@tca.org.au

<http://www.tca.org.au>

Thursday 6 July 2006.

“Protestors suffer from Chicken Little Syndrome”

Timber Communities Australia (TCA), the national grassroots community organisation, denounces the latest action by a small group of environmental protestors yesterday.

The ongoing campaign, by these extremists, to end the sustainable multiple use management of our south east forest, was thwarted by the quick response of the police.

Distressed that they were unable to attract broad community support at their rally last Sunday, this handful of so called “environmentalists” have resorted to harassing local family businesses and blockading public roads.

Peter Lezaich, TCA, NSW State Manager, today noted that “this same group of people have been creating this sort of public nuisance in the south east for a number of years now. They have absolutely no regard that the wishes of the broader community be respected nor of the costs that are incurred by the community in terms of police and emergency services attending their protests”.

The statistics for the forests in this region are telling. With 74% of the public forests of the south east within the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system, and 100% of public forests managed for conservation outcomes, it is clear that these people have no interest in forest conservation.

“What is clear is that ‘Chicken Little Syndrome’ is alive and well in these peoples minds. However the sky is not about to fall and our forests are being sustainably managed. Conservation outcomes are being achieved with essential habitat and water quality being maintained and enhanced” said Mr Lezaich.

The timber industry in the south east is a vital contributor to the social and economic well being of our society and to the ecological sustainability of our forests.

“One thing is very clear, this small group of people have a very narrow view of conservation, one in keeping with past decades when a museum approach was advocated (lock it up and throw away the key). Today’s conservationists have learnt much over the last two decades, and understand that this approach can not, will not and has never catered for the full suite of ecological processes” said Peter Lezaich.

The conservation balance that has been achieved as a result of the Regional Forest Agreements is producing the outcomes that our society is asking for. Healthy ecosystem function providing habitat for all components of the ecosystem and pure, clean water in our rivers and streams.

Ends

Peter Lezaich, Timber Communities Australia, NSW State Manager, 0427 211 406