

MediaRelease



TIMBER CANDIDATES FOR STATE ELECTION

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Timber Communities Australia (TCA) has announced it would be moving to field candidates in key regional seats in the up coming state election. Scott Gentle, Victorian State Manager of TCA said it was likely that the seats of Narracan, Morwell, Ripon, Seymour and Gembrook would be targeted.

At the last state election a timber industry candidate who campaigned for only two weeks in Morwell received nearly 15% of the vote and directed his preferences to the Coalition after the Brack's Government announced the closing of the timber industry in the Otways.

“TCA has a responsibility to protect the communities that rely on the timber industry. We attempt to do this, where possible with a constructive approach towards all political parties, but we are more than capable of taking more drastic action if necessary.” Mr Gentle said.

At the last federal election TCA along with the CFMEU's Forestry Division ran a national campaign which was credited with delivering a pro timber community outcome from John Howard and derailing the last weeks of Latham's campaign.

“Make no mistake our people are not going to cop any Latham like forest policies from any political party. We want all major parties to commit to keeping the promises and the signed forest agreements which are essential for our industry's future and the future of our communities”, said Mr Gentle.

Meetings between key parties in the timber industry will be occurring in the next few days to finalise the seats likely to be targeted.

“We believe if necessary we can run a well organised campaign which will determine the outcome in a number of regional seats and if that's what's needed to protect workers, families and communities that depend on our industry that what we will do,” Concluded Mr Gentle.

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