

MEDIA RELEASE



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TRICK OR TREAT ELECTION

Given the treatment of timber communities throughout past State Elections it is no surprise that Premier Bracks has officially launched the 2006 State Election on Halloween, said Timber Communities Australia today.

“The big question on the minds of all timber workers and their families is will we be given a trick or a treat as the major political parties fight for green preferences”, said Mr Scott Gentle, Victorian State Manager of national grassroots community organisation, Timber Communities Australia (TCA).

“If Mr Bracks & Mr Baillieu stand true to their word then we can expect a treat, as both leaders have admitted that a balance between timber harvesting and environmental management has been achieved and it was now time to move forward.”

“However, as everyone knows on Halloween it can go either way and with the restructure of the upper house, leaders will be tempted to shy away from facts and base their policy on green rhetoric,” said Mr Gentle.

“Even though we have been given assurances that the hard cuts in the timber industry have already been made, we are concerned this is a cruel Halloween trick and that jobs will be lost”.

“This isn’t just about job losses; it’s about good forest management that provide jobs and environmental benefits for all Victorians”, Mr Gentle said.

“Halloween may be today, but if we are tricked and unwarranted cuts to our industry are made, then the next 4 weeks will be frightening for any party that turns against timber workers, their families and dependent communities”, concluded Mr Gentle.

For further information call:

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