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MEDIA RELEASE



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TIMBER DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES WELCOME DEMOCRATIC START FOR ASSESSMENT OF BELL BAY PULP MILL

Timber dependent communities welcome day's important vote by Parliament that will now start the assessment process for the Bell Bay pulp mill.

This vote will allow democratically elected parliamentarians to finalise the assessment of the \$1.5 billion pulp mill after examination of the proposal by an independent expert consultant.

Timber Communities Australia supports the announced that SWECO PIC, an international firm based in Finland will assemble a project team that will include all the required specialists to complete the assessment process.

This expert consultant will be able to judge the pulp mill on its merits rather on legal argument that bogged down the two previous directions hearings held by the RPDC.

"With this important vote and the appointment of an internationally respected assessment consultant timber dependent families are very thankful that the pulp mill project is now back on track for assessment." Mr Barry Chipman, Tasmanian State Manager, Timber Communities Australia said today.

"Timber dependent families and the local communities now know that the project will now be finally assessed against the environmental emission guidelines approved by the Tasmanian government on expert advice way back in 2004".

Today's vote to approve the Assessment legislation will ensure that the pulp mill is assessed against these criteria in an open and transparent manner.

"Also important to timber dependent families is that SWECO has an enviable environmental record in Australia as its Ocean outfall 1.5 km pipeline project for Coffs Harbour was officially opened by Ian Kiernan AO, hero of Clean up Australia". (SWECO's Coffs Harbour design protects *quote a superb string of golden beaches washed by surf; and a spectacular underwater landscape beneath blue Pacific Ocean waters.*

Timber Communities Australia now calls for the new consultants be given a fair go to complete this vitally important assessment task.
Ends

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