

# ***MEDIA RELEASE***



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## **Fire Hero Punished By Radical Environmentalists**

After spending most of summer fighting the massive bushfires that threatened most of Victoria's alpine communities, Central Highlands timber harvesting contractor, Malcolm Warnock is now being forcibly halted from his right to work by radical environmentalists.

They claim this is a statement about global warming yet it is somewhat ironic that a person who put his life on the line to stop the millions of tons of carbon emissions generated by the fire is the innocent victim of their misguided protest.

"If these people were fair dinkum about global warming then they would highlighting the problems overseas not sustainable timber harvesting operations in Victoria's state forests" said Mr. Scott Gentle, Victorian state manager of Timber Communities Australia.

"These protestors should be promoting using timber because of its carbon storing properties not halting hard working people from making a living." said Mr. Gentle. "The Government recognizes that native forest timber harvesting operations are sustainable so these die hard green zealots should accept that sustainable forestry is a positive in the climate change debate."

"Climate change is something we all should be aware of but harassing innocent forest workers is not the way to do this." said Mr. Gentle. "For 3 months harvesting contractors fought bushfires and prevented the spread of the fires into Melbourne's water catchments. They made real contributions to stopping an environmental disaster yet once again they are targeted by radical environmental groups"

"Malcolm Warnock, the contractor who has been victimized put off a hernia operation to fight the fires and is recovering at home after he finally got some spare time for his operation and now is hit with illegal protestors" said Mr. Gentle.

"While the fires were burning these green zealots didn't say too much. Since then they have tried to attack the forest contractors over putting in fire lines to save the water catchments, they have tried and been unsuccessful in getting media attention for their ill informed cause so now they are going back to their usual tactic of persecuting the timber harvesting contractors who saved the forest" said Mr. Gentle

"Maybe if these protestors didn't blow so much hot air or continually bombard us with verbal diarrhoea climate change might not be as much of an issue" concluded Mr. Gentle.

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