

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### TCA SEEKS URGENT INVESTIGATION INTO ACTIONS OF THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Timber Communities Australian (TCA) has written to the Federal Government seeking as a matter of public importance an urgent investigation into activity by The Wilderness Society (TWS).

TCA is calling for that investigation to focus on the TWS' funding of Federal Court action against the Commonwealth's assessment process for the Bell Bay pulp mill and the TWS' apparent soliciting of re-election funds on behalf of Australian Greens Leader Senator Bob Brown.

"TCA holds the strong view that these actions by the TWS are at odds with its position on the Register of Environmental Organisations (REO), from where it receives its tax deductibility status for donations, which now requires urgent investigation" Barry Chipman Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

The TWS' website is soliciting for donations for its Federal Court action against pulp mill assessment process- prominently pointing out that all such donations are tax deductible. Web link is <https://www.wilderness.org.au/features/>

"TCA believes that even if such activity is considered to constitute "advocacy", it would appear to be carrying the concept of environmental advocacy way beyond the rules governing the REO."

"TCA now believes that the REO's rules should be amended to proscribe such activity. Even more so with the TWS soliciting funds on behalf of the Australia Greens"

The TWS sent an email to University students inviting recipients to attend a fundraising dinner "*to help re-elect Bob Brown in the Senate*" and to RSVP back to the TWS.

"This blatant partisan and political fundraising action is entirely outside of the environmental role TWS and TCA believes it is not appropriate for an organisation on the REO to continue to abuse its tax deductible status."

"These serious abuses need urgent investigation, followed by a tightening of the rules for the Register of Environmental Organisations, and if there is any further abuse by TWS it should then loose this tax benefit privilege."

Ends

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