

Media Release

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TIMBER DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES HOLD CONCERNS FOR MOU

Timber Communities Australia holds considerable concerns for what will flow from the MOU, Forestry Tasmania has agreed to sign with Florentine Valley forest activist.

“With these activists having caused work delays over such a long period timber folk can perhaps understand why FT took this step, but we are very concerned as to where this MOU will now lead to” Barry Chipman Timber Communities Australia Tasmanian State Manager said tonight.

“Timber dependent families don’t want to see activist moving to disrupt other forest workers, working in approved forest harvesting areas, in the hope of gaining a “lock up” by this MOU tactic. It sets a very worrying precedent”

“The wording contained within the MOU *Period of Agreement* also raises considerable concerns for timber families, as there are references to possible future permit lock up, a move that TCA would totally oppose”

“Resulting from a unanimous resolution passed at our 20th annual national conference held in West Australia last month, TCA will not accept one more hectare of working forest locked up. This is a position that TCA will not move from”.

“As stated by Forestry Tasmania in the MOU, 90% of the Upper Florentine is already unavailable for timber harvesting and the remaining ten per cent is an important source of high quality timber vales and it should remain available”.

“TCA will be watching this MOU process very carefully and will need to be reassured that, this doesn’t become the new way of stoping timber families from going about their lawful work”. Mr Chipman concluded

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