

MEDIA RELEASE



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FORESTRY THE ANSWER ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT

Today on World environment day, misguided environmentalists have chosen to disrupt timber harvesting operations in the Central Highlands forests, near Marysville said Timber Communities Australia today.

“ In an effort to draw media attention to the climate change debate it is ironic they have targeted an industry that is carbon neutral rather than industries that are responsible for producing emissions”, said Mr. Scott Gentle, Victorian State Manager of the national grassroots community organisation, Timber Communities Australia (TCA).

“Everyone wants to do their bit in reducing emissions but what they need to understand is that the best way to store carbon is not only in planting trees but cutting them down”, Mr. Gentle said.

“Trees store carbon up until a certain age and then begin to release that carbon, however if we cut trees down and turn them into wood and paper products then that carbon is stored for the life of that product”, said Mr. Gentle.

Victoria’s forest have been managed for over a century in a way that has ensured that areas where timber has been harvested it has been regenerated back to forests that can be used once again for timber, biodiversity and at the same time has supported strong socio-economic timber communities in Victoria.

“Forests that are being cleared and not replanted, like many of those in South America, Indonesia or Papua New Guinea are where the real problems occur. If the protestors really understood what they were protesting about they would be outside the Indonesian embassy asking that government to do more about illegal logging, not disrupting legal and sustainably managed forest operations”

“We need to embrace sustainable forestry, whether it is plantation or native forest for its positive benefits in reducing carbon emissions”, said Mr. Gentle.
If people want to make a real difference to the environment then they should make a conscious decision to use Australian timber products.

“Radical, anti-forest environmentalists will today feel like Jekyll & Hyde as they are protesting against the very industry that will help reduce Australia’s high carbon emissions”, concluded Mr. Gentle.

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