

## WILDERNESS SOCIETY FAÇADE FINALLY CRUMBLES

The Forest Industries Association of Tasmania is disgusted but not surprised by the totally unprofessional and churlish gutter tactics employed by the Wilderness Society to disrupt the pro-development rally in Launceston on Thursday.

Organisers of the pro-development rally were informed yesterday that the Wilderness Society had booked the Albert Hall for their own “trade fair”, a tactic designed solely to disrupt the pro-development rally.

“The Wilderness Society’s disgraceful behaviour in trying to disrupt this rally is not an isolated incident it is a perfect example of the type of harassment that the forest industry has been putting up with on a daily basis for many years” said Forest Industries Association of Tasmania Chief Executive Terry Edwards.

“At the last Forest Industry rally, the extremists were there cajoling and spitting on our members trying to evoke violence. I’m pleased that we have been able to relocate the rally to avoid this type of harassment.”

“The dirty tricks of the Wilderness Society have no boundaries, they have no morals or ethics. This childish tactic shows just how unprofessional they really are and why it is so important that we support this rally.”

“The pro-development sector of the community respected the right of the Wilderness Society to protest and allowed them to have their rally unencumbered yet they are not willing to extend us the same courtesy.”

“The Wilderness Society and Green groups pretend to be the good guys and try and paint the forest industry as the bad guys, but we won’t engage in this type of behaviour.”

The rally organisers did approach the Wilderness Society to attempt to find a reasonable resolution to this debacle but the Wilderness Society would not cooperate.

For more information, contact **Claire Bennett** – Public Relations Officer

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Forest Industries Association  
of Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

“This was also the case when Forestry Tasmania recently held out the olive branch and attempted to find a resolution to the dangerous and costly protests in forestry exclusion zones throughout the state, which was also rejected by the Wilderness Society.”

The recent incident in the Styx valley is yet another example of the extreme activities of anti-development groups and their ability to maliciously lie despite the consequences on other peoples lives.

“A protester was nearly seriously injured after chaining his arm into a pole concreted into the ground under a car body. After police, ambulance and forestry staff spent hours freeing the protestor the only thanks was a false claim that the protestor had been beaten repeatedly – a claim that could have cost respected men their careers and which was only debunked because a Mercury reporter happened to be present throughout the rescue.”

“To be honest, it is a relief that the Wilderness Societies high and mighty façade is finally crumbling and the community will now be able to see what we are fighting against.”

“We now call on the Wilderness Society to keep to “their patch” and not engage in the inflammatory, antagonistic manner our intelligence suggests they intend to employ.”

“We have sought the assistance of Tasmania Police in our genuine efforts to prevent confrontation on Thursday. If it does occur, it is down to the Wilderness Society alone.”

Ends.

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