

CERTAINTY OF NO NEW RESERVES WELCOMED

The Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT) has welcomed the ALP's commitment to the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) and Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA) and the assurance of no new reserves under the ALP forest policy.

FIAT Chief Executive Terry Edwards said "The RFA and TCFA are the centre point of Tasmania's forest industry. The ALP's commitment to these agreements in concert with the Prime Ministers "no change" policy will enable the Tasmanian forest industry to plan for the future with confidence."

"It is a welcome change to the ALP policy of the past and it is a welcome change to have bipartisan support leading into a federal election for what has now been acknowledged as a sustainable forest industry that is vital to the economy of Tasmania."

"The joint commitment to the RFA and TCFA can now provide assurances to not only the industry but the community that these agreements are providing the right balance between conservation and economic and social needs."

"Following this commitment, I would now call on both the Federal Government and Opposition to support a rolling 20 year agreement for the Tasmanian RFA to increase certainty and provide the right climate for new investment opportunities."

"We are pleased to acknowledge that the ALP policy contains specific initiatives in the crucial areas of skills and industry development including a program to address the critical shortage of skills in the industry and a fund to provide incentives for new downstream processing opportunities."

"The acknowledgement of the forest industry's positive contribution to addressing climate change and the focus on stopping the importation of illegally logged timber into the country is appropriate."

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