

Media Release



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TCA welcomes effective input into Private Native Forestry Act.

Timber Communities Australia's New South Wales State Manager, Jim Adams said today that while TCA remains disappointed at the lack of consultation with the forests and timber industry and community organizations in the latter stages of the development of the NSW Governments Private Native Forestry package which was released yesterday, TCA was pleased to have at least secured effective consultation with the Government during the implementation of the package and the subsequent development of the new Private Native Forestry legislation which was also firmly committed to by the Government during a briefing given to TCA yesterday.

"We welcome the Governments commitment given to TCA, Australian Forest Growers, and the Forest Products Association of NSW as a result of our meeting yesterday to set up an implementation taskforce to report to it on the implementation of the package and to be actively involved in the preparation of the new Private Native Forestry legislation" Mr. Adams said today.

"We were given copies of the new transitional Codes of Practice and an explanation of the enabling regulation during our briefing yesterday and remain concerned about some aspects of both" Mr. Adams said, "in particular we are concerned about the Government's capacity to resource its role in the implementation and preparation of the required Property Vegetation Plans on the required schedule across the State and further because we have only just received the Codes we remain concerned that they may still retain conditions which will significantly impact on Private Native Forestry in NSW"

"We are pleased that the implementation task force will provide industry with high level access to the Government to ensure that any difficulties and unexpected impacts can be brought to its attention before they become a problem in the field and rectified"

"We remain disappointed however at the processes employed by the Government on this issue over recent months" Jim Adams said, "but the challenge now for both TCA and the Government is to work constructively together to ensure that workable interim arrangements are achieved leading to a suitable new legislative framework which will ensure the long term sustainability of Private Native Forestry in NSW and therefore also of the growers, processors and the communities which rely on it for their prosperity"

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