

# ***MEDIA RELEASE***



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## **SOUTH EAST TIMBER INDUSTRY FLUSHED AWAY**

The announcement by the Hon. Gail Gago, SA Minister for Environment and Conservation today has flushed away all hopes of a viable future for the timber industry in the South East claims Timber Communities Australia.

“The announcement by Minister Gago regarding the Groundwater Extraction in the South East has come as a total surprise to the timber industry and dependent communities”, said Mrs Kersten Gentle, South Australian State Manager of national grassroots community organisation Timber Communities Australia (TCA).

“With over 30% of the employment in the South East contributed to the timber industry, jobs could now be under threat as the Government clearly attempts to squeeze the industry out of the region”, Mrs Gentle said.

“The South East Natural Resources Management Board has not finalized their water allocation plan and today’s announcement has boxed the NRM Board into a final position giving no future for the plantation industry”.

“Minister Gago sits in her ivory tower in Adelaide and has failed to consult face to face with industry and instead has simply chosen to ignore the science, ignore the socio-economic input the industry contributes to the region and to derail the NRM process”, Mrs Gentle said.

“TCA calls on Minister Gago to travel to the South East region and stand by her claims of consultation by talking face to face with timber industry and community representatives who have just had their life expectancy cut short”, said Mrs Gentle.

“If the South Australia Government is fairdinkum about the Penola Pulp Mill, sustaining existing plantations, future plantations and jobs in the South East then they will front the industry and explain their misguided policy”, concluded Mrs Gentle

Ends

For further information call

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