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MEDIA RELEASE



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FEDERAL COURT GREAT NEWS FOR TIMBER FAMILIES

Timber Communities Australia members are extremely pleased that the Federal Court has vindicated the Federal Government's assessment process for the proposed Bell Bay pulp mill.

TCA believes the judgment is fully in accordance with the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The Federal Court has found that the assessment process is valid and it is appropriate for Tasmania.

"The Federal Court decision is great news for timber dependent families as it confirms that Tasmania's wilderness and forests will not be impacted upon by the proposed pulp mill." Mr **Barry Chipman**, Timber Communities Australia Tasmanian State Manager, said today.

"The judgment supports the Federal Ministers right to be satisfied that the Regional Forest Agreement will ensure there is no adverse impact on our forests."

The judgment totally rejected the false claim made by the TWS that the *"Minister failed to take into account a relevant consideration by not considering the adverse impacts of forestry operations undertaken to source wood for the pulp mill."*

"This dismissal now clears the way for the proposed pulp mill to continue travelling the detailed assessment process"

Clearly the legal action was all about creating further delays in the assessment process and trying to force the developer out of Tasmania.

"It is hoped that the pulp mill can now be fairly assessed without fear of more legal challenges."

"Timber dependent families and their communities are now looking to the Federal Government for its much awaited discussion regarding its correct assessment responsibilities for this valued project." Mr Chipman concluded.

Ends

For more information contact Barry Chipman 62604442 or 0417 013336