

MEDIA RELEASE



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COMMUNITIES THE HARDEST HIT BY WATER DECISION

Communities throughout the South East region of South Australia will be the hardest hit by the new South Australian Water policy relating to plantations claims Timber Communities Australia..

“There has been a lot of talk about the agriculture and timber industries and how the water policy announced by Minister Gago will impact on them, but when will everyone start to talk about the people, the families and the communities that will suffer as a result of this policy”, said Mrs Kersten Gentle, South Australian State Manager for national grassroots community organisation, Timber Communities Australia (TCA).

“There is no doubt that everyone living in the South East has a friend, neighbour or relative working in the industry who may lose their job in the future due to the water policy”, said Mrs Gentle

“The timber industry in the Green Triangle employs over 7000 families and contributes \$664 million to the regional GDP every year but these figures could now change dramatically with the future of the plantation sector threatened”, Mrs Gentle said.

“It is okay for those that made the policy to say that the timber industry is over-reacting and exaggerating the impacts but it is not their job on the line.”

“Why are people forgotten when Government policy is made?”

“It is not only the growth and future of the 7 year old blue gum industry under threat, the softwood industry which has been around for over 100 years has been cut off at the knees with future growth also threatened”, said Mrs Gentle.

“TCA calls on the South Australian Government to release the socio-economic impact study that was surely undertaken prior to this devastating policy being announced given the dire consequences to communities in the South East region”, said Mrs Gentle.

“We are still waiting for Minister Gago to stop her consultation through the media and to sit down with the timber industry and dependent communities to explain her policy and the further she delays this meeting makes us more wary as to why the decision was made so suddenly”, concluded Mrs Gentle.

Ends

For further information call:

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