

MEDIA RELEASE

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FEDERAL DRAFT APPROVAL GIVES HOPE TO TIMBER COMMUNITIES

Timber Communities Australia members are extremely pleased that the Federal Environment Minister has decided to approve the proposed value adding Bell Bay pulp mill.

TCA believes that the Commonwealth's draft approval is fully in accordance with the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and the wealth of scientific evidence available on the proposed project.

"The Federal Government has placed a number of conditions on the project, many mirror the Sweco Pic report, TCA members will be accepting the invitation to comment on these conditions." Mr **Barry Chipman**, Tasmanian State Manager of Timber Communities Australia said today.

"Some conditions on first reading can be supported but others will need to be studied to determine if they are justified."

The Federal Environment Minister's decision makes nonsense of the claim that only the RPDC could have assessed this mill, clearly the Federal Minister and the whole State Parliament can ensure the environment and public health is protected.

"Timber Communities Australia believes the Federal Environment Minister has given this value adding, job creating and environmentally friendly pulp mill a fair go and made his decision based on detailed advice." Mr Chipman concluded.

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