

# Media Release



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## **Timber Communities Australia (TCA) Welcomes Federal initiative to end illegal logging**

CEO Jill Lewis today welcomed the \$2 million funding initiative by The Hon Senator Eric Abetz, Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, to end the importation of illegally logged timber products into Australia.

“This initiative is welcomed because it will mean that Australian families and consumers will no longer support illegal and potentially unsustainable logging operations in other countries with whom we trade, but also because it will encourage the countries with whom we trade in timber products to adopt sustainable forest management practises” Ms Lewis said.

“This initiative could also lead to greater demand for timber products produced from our own world class and extremely well managed forests, both native and plantations thus enhancing employment, and social and economic growth for our own timber based communities. Those families that are reliant on our forests and forest products are grateful for the work that Senator Abetz has done to help stop illegal products coming into Australia and in some cases, ruining their lives and costing them their jobs.

The Federal Government are to be congratulated on this initiative. This approach will encourage improvements in the forest management practises of our timber trading partners.

TCA strongly supports the certification of forest management activities both domestically and abroad and this policy will help to encourage that.” Concluded Ms Lewis

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