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**MEDIA RELEASE**



**Timber Communities Australia**  
A.B.N. 3 008 665 736  
**Tasmanian State Office**  
PO Box 172 Campania  
Tas 7026  
Phone: 03 6260 4442  
Fax: 03 6260 4420  
Mobile: 0417 013 336  
Email [barry.tca@bordnet.com.au](mailto:barry.tca@bordnet.com.au)  
Http://www.tca.org.au

## **Timber Communities welcome Final Approval for Pulp Mill**

Today's approval by the Federal Environment Minister of Tasmania's value adding and environmental friendly Bell Bay pulp mill is great news and tremendous social and economic boost to Tasmania's timber dependent working families and their local communities.

The Federal Environment Minister has confirm that the Bell Bay mill will lead the world in being environmentally neutral, it will have the worlds most stringent environmental conditions placed upon it. However TCA members do question the need for 24 extra conditions when the report of the Chief Scientist found that a mill using modern ECF technology will not have any significant impact upon Commonwealth marine areas or listed endangered or migratory species.

"Timber families have been waiting 4 long years to hear this final tick of approval for mill, and its so welcomed, the 4<sup>TH</sup> of October 07 will now be remembered by timber folk as a very big step forward in their value adding journey" Mr Adrian Coward , Northern Tasmanian Regional Manager Timber Communities Australia said following the approval.

"The benefits to flow from the boost of over 3,000 jobs created in the construction stage, will be endless, with just one positive example being great opportunities for young kids to gain much sort after trade qualifications."

"The Bell Bay pulp mill has been a political football for too long, now the independent scientific umpire has blown the whistle; it's now time for us all to move forward".

"With goodwill all-round Tasmania can now reap the same benefits as seen in places like Southern France's Bordeaux region, where pulp and paper making, tree growing, world class vineyards, and a major tourism industry all co-exist in harmony with each other".

In welcoming the Federal Environment Ministers approval, families also acknowledge the leadership of our State Government in getting the project back on track when it appeared lost, also our State Opposition and Legislative Council members saw the project through to this final approval equally well received was the support from Tasmanian Federal Government members..

"This final approval by the Federal Government is truly a red letter day for Tasmanian timber dependent families" Mr Coward concluded.