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MEDIA RELEASE



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COUSINS CHALLENGED TO COME CLEAN

Timber Communities Australia members are challenging Sydney silvertail and millionaire Telstra director Mr Geoffrey Cousins to come out of hiding and meet timber dependent families threatened by his self serving vendetta against value adding of Tasmania's regrowth forest and plantation resource..

Instead of sneaking into Tasmania just to massage his giant super ego by attending the anti pulp mill rally he should come out and meet timber dependent families.

"By talking to real people Mr Cousins might get some idea about working families and their need to earn a living. He might learn that not every one has his privileged life style, it was only two weeks ago he voted himself a massive pay rise when the seven Telstra Directors approved upping their own combined salary from \$2 million to \$3 million." Mr Barry Chipman, Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

At the same time Mr Cousins and his fellow Telstra Directors went against the majority vote of shareholders, and granted an annual salary package of an obese \$22 million to the Telstra Chief Executive.

"Cousins should also come clean about threatened Sea Eagles on his block of land on the Tasman Peninsula which he is hell bent on subdividing despite these Sea Eagles being listed under both Tasmanian threatened species legislation and Commonwealth Environmental legislation."

His visit coincides with the release of an investigation into Mr Cousins land dealings by National Independent group "Save our Snowy". Their report entitled *Gunns, Greens and Cousins* raises many questions about his relationship with the Greens.

"TCA will be calling on SOS to refer their dossier to the Australian Corporate Regulator to examine Mr Cousin's fitness to continue as a Company Director."

"The Evidence presented in the special investigation is a damning indictment of Mr Cousin's ethical behaviour." Mr Chipman concluded.

Ends

For more information contact Barry on 6260 4442

For a copy of the report *Gunns, Greens and Cousins* at
<http://sosnews.org/pdf/Gunns-Greens-and-Cousins.pdf>