

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**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](http://www.tca.org.au)

### FEDERAL COURT GREAT NEWS FOR TIMBER FAMILIES

Timber Communities Australia members are extremely pleased that the Federal Court has for the second time vindicated the Federal Government's assessment process for the proposed Bell Bay pulp mill.

TCA believes that this second judgment is fully in accordance with the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The Federal Court has found that the assessment process is valid and it is appropriate for Tasmania.

"The Federal Court decision is great news for timber dependent families as it confirms that the detailed assessment process undertaken by the Commonwealth was the correct one" Mr Barry Chipman, Timber Communities Australia Tasmanian State Manager, said today.

"This second judgment supports the Federal Ministers right to be satisfied that the Regional Forest Agreement will ensure there is no adverse impact on our forests."

This appeal judgment totally rejected the false claim that the *"setting a period for public comment on the pulp mill proposal that was too short"*

"This Federal court also warned future litigants that it had no jurisdiction to consider the merit or wisdom of any decision of the Minister"

Clearly this decision of the Federal Court should satisfy all those concerned that the assessment process was both valid and correct.

"Claims of improper action were totally rejected by the Judges. It is hoped that the taxpayer does not have to meet the cost of this failed and flawed legal action."

"Timber Communities Australia on behalf of timber dependent families and their communities urge all Tasmanians to now give this value adding job creating and environmentally friendly mill a fair go." Mr Chipman concluded.

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For more information contact Barry Chipman 62604442 or 0417 013336