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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@broadnet.com.au](mailto:barry.tca@broadnet.com.au)  
Http://www.tca.org.au

**TIMBER COMMUNITIES WELCOMES NEW FEDERAL CABINET  
- AS SOLID AS TASSIE OAK**

Timber Communities Australia's Tasmanian membership views the new Cabinet being built by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd as having the solid foundation and strength of a cabinet built with fine Tasmanian timbers.

With the Cabinet's new focus on the environment and climate change, responsibility for forestry and timber value adding appears to be a major strength of this new Labor Cabinet.

"We welcome the appointment of Tony Burke MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Senator Penny Wong Minister for Climate Change and Water, these appointments will be of vital importance to Tasmania." Mr. Barry Chipman, Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today

"We look forward to briefing both these Ministers on Tasmania's significant reduction in Greenhouse gasses achieved since the signing of the Regional Forest Agreement in Tasmania."

We also look forward to providing opportunities for these two Ministers and their fellow Cabinet members to meet with timber families and view first hand the sustainable management of our working forests and plantation estate.

TCA congratulates Nick Sherry on his Ministerial Appointment, again with a strong timber link, as superannuation is a key investor in our value adding forest industry.

"We also congratulate Martin Ferguson, Minister for Resources, Energy & Tourism along with Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government. Both Ministers will have key roles in policy development vital to transporting and marketing our sustainably produced timber products."

"There are also great opportunities for continued forest based tourism in regional areas as a result of the Community Forest Agreement, which is supported by the ALP."

"It was the last ALP Federal Cabinet that in 1995 approved the criteria for a National Reserves System that has resulted in 42% of our native forest being managed solely for its conservation value."

The new Minister for Environment Peter Garrett will inherit a million hectares of Tasmanian old growth forest reserved which far exceeds the reserve target proposed by former ALP Cabinet.

"Timber Communities Australia looks forward to our first meeting with the new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, his Deputy Julia Gillard and these four key Ministers hoping they can visit Tasmania at their first opportunity to meet with timber families in their local communities." Mr. Chipman concluded.

For more information Barry Chipman 6260 4442 or 0417 013336