

MEDIA RELEASE

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TASMANIAN ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT TO HELP AUSTRALIA ACHIEVE KYOTO TARGET

Timber Communities Australia members are proud to be making a positive contribution in the struggle to reduce Greenhouse Gasses.

With the new Kevin Rudd Federal Government set to ratify the Kyoto protocol, Tasmania and renewable forestry can continue to make a significant contribution.

The Australian Greenhouse Office *Australian National Greenhouse Accounts* show that to the latest reported year Tasmania emissions are 76.6% of the base year, a reduction of 23.4%

“This massive saving in GHG emissions has been led by forestry and land use sectors contributing a **55% reduction**.” Mr Barry Chipman, Timber Communities Australia Tasmanian State Manager, said today.

This is made possible by the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) introduced by the last ALP federal government that provides the framework for a long term solution to the competing demands of conservation and the renewable wood values of our forests.

The GHG savings are also built on the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) implemented by the Howard Liberal Government that resulted from the NFPS.

“Our forests are a major carbon store through the Comprehensive Adequate and Representative reserve system that now covers 47% of Tasmania native forests..“

Just as important are the afforestation schemes in planting new forest and active reforestation programs. Our forest managers have the goal of enhancing Tasmania's growing forests.

Thus Tasmania's forest sector is saving 4.7 Million tonnes of GHG emissions each year, equivalent to the emissions from **2 million cars each year**.

“Now that Australia is ratifying the Kyoto protocol, it needs to consider the life expectancy of carbon stored in renewable timber products, in our houses, in furniture and even our filing systems and land fills.”

It is estimated that over 230 million tonnes of carbon are stored in Australia's wood products.

“Timber dependent families and their communities are proud of the contribution that renewable forestry makes to this environmental issue“ Mr Chipman concluded.

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For more information contact Barry Chipman 62604442 or 0417 013336