

5 December 2007

MEDIA RELEASE



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LAWYERS FOR FOREST MUST FUND OWN PULP MILL APPEAL

Timber Communities Australia members are calling on the new Federal Government to ensure the Directors of Lawyers for Forests identify themselves and lodge a security of costs with the Federal Court.

Lawyers for Forests are seeking to sue the new Environment Minister Peter Garrett but are calling for public donations to fund their case rather than using their own money.

www.lawyersforforest.asn.au

These unnamed directors appear to be wealthy barristers and solicitors from the affluent legal practices of Sydney and Melbourne but they appear unwilling to even pay for their own Federal Court action.

“This group is linked to the Environmental Defenders Office who has previously attempted to sue Timber Communities Australia. That case fell over when the EDO Directors refused to provide security of costs.” Mr **Barry Chipman** Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

This latest Federal Court action by the LFF may also breach Court rules against vexatious cases, as the pulp mill approval has already been subject to a Federal Court hearing and an appeal.

The Federal Government should also determine, just what is the relationship between the Lawyers for Forests and the Wilderness Society?

The Wilderness Society is already facing massive cost claims that it hopes to fund from tax deductible donations for their failed law suits.

The Wilderness Society' tax deductible donations have charity status and should be used to protect wilderness, not fund court cases against a value adding pulp mill that has no impact on wilderness or old growth forests.

This legal action by LFF follows the Federal Election where over ten million Australians voted to support the major parties that had approved the pulp mill. Even election advertisements for the Greens told voters that a vote for the ALP or Coalition was a vote for the pulp mill.

This lawyers group should accept democracy and the electorate's support for this clean, environmentally neutral pulp mill.

“The lawyers' action to stop the pulp mill, a mill set to save 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas comes at a time when Australia has just ratified the Kyoto protocol and undertaken to reduce emissions. Will the lawyers pay the penalty for the lost opportunity help reduce greenhouse?”

“This current Federal case is more about egos of an elite group of lawyers not willing to finance their own publicity stunt. It should be condemned.” Mr Chipman concluded

For more information Barry Chipman 6260 4442