

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
[Http://www.tca.org.au](http://www.tca.org.au)

TASMANIAN ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IS HELPING TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE

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

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 previous ALP Hawke federal government. The NFPS provides the framework for the 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 previous Liberal Howard 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. Timber dependent families hold great comfort in the knowledge that Tasmania’s forest manager’s work with the goal of enhancing Tasmania’s growing forests.

Thus Tasmania’s managed working forests are saving 4.7 Million tonnes of GHG emissions each year, equivalent to the emissions from **2 million cars each year.**

“Now that Australia has ratified the Kyoto protocol, consideration can be given to 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 important environmental issue” Mr Chipman concluded.

Information sources (www.climatechange.gov.au). (www.greenhouse.gov.au)

Ends

For more information contact Barry Chipman 62604442 or 0417 013336