

MEDIA RELEASE



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FORESTRY UNDERPINS EAST GIPPSLAND COMMUNITIES

Timber Communities Australia welcomes the timely release of *Australia's State of the Forests Report for 2008* which was launched by Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry the Hon Tony Burke at the AusWest Sawmills in Bairnsdale today.

“It is important in the lead up to the Federal bi-election for the seat of Gippsland that the significance of forestry is understood as it underpins many communities within the electorate”, said Mr Scott Gentle from national grassroots community organisations Timber Communities Australia.

“TCA is pleased with the support the major parties and candidates have demonstrated for the industry and that they understand the huge socio-economic benefits the industry brings to East Gippsland, said Mr Gentle

“Even though the industry has gone through some tough times over the past years there is still over 3,000 families dependent on the industry and through continued sustainable management of the forest resource the industry will support the next generation of job seekers as well”, said Mr Gentle

“Timber communities in East Gippsland have been used in the past as a political football and it is fantastic going to the polls on the 28th June at the bi-election knowing you have the support of the major parties.”

“It is important for all political candidates and the voting electorate to remember when going to the polls that trees grow communities and someone you know most likely depends on the industry for their livelihood so vote for someone who supports the industry that underpins Gippsland communities”, concluded Mr Gentle.

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For further information call:

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