

Media Release

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Timber Communities Australia supports Tasmanian Bee Keepers call to maintain access Leatherwood forest within the WHA and forest reserves.

Timber Communities Australia is fully supportive of the Tasmanian Bee Keepers Association call to of existing access to rich stands of Leather wood suitable for valuable apiary sites.

This is a matter that TCA did endeavour to pursue with the previous federal Government as there are several ideal areas just within the existing WHA where access should be re-established.

“TCA believes that these areas could provide a very substantial area of Leatherwood rich forest to be managed by beekeepers for beekeepers and now hopes that from this renewed interest things can happen to further progress these to become possible” Mr Barry Chipman, Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

One site is the 5 k of gravelled road just beyond Farmhouse Creek, located, after the bridge crossing on West Piction Road at, which is just within South West National Park

Back in the late 1980’s this area of forest was identified as a valuable timber resource, with approval granted for the construction of a wooden bridge and the establishment of 5 kilometres of gravel road reaching into this stand of forest. The planed forestry operations never took place as the area was declared WHA.

Following the WHA declaration the main structure of the Farmhouse Creek Bridge was removed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service leaving just two bridge “stringers” in place for walking access only, the formation of the 5 K of gravel road remains today. It would not be an impossible task to re-establish the crossing with possibly a concrete ford.

There other area is Holley Road which leads down to Lake Gordon and provides access to a substantial stand of Leatherwood which is beyond a wooden bridge that has been badly damaged by a wild fire. There are several repair options for this bridge including utilising a section of Bailey bridge.

Earlier in 2007 TCA and TBA representative meet with the then Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell, TCA to discuss the proposal and received his in principle support, but Ministerial changes then become a barrier to moving these proposals forward.

TCA has previously assisted bee keepers with maintaining access to leather wood site by building a new timber bridge across the Nora River on the Mt Call Road. Replacement of this bridge maintained access for beekeepers to existing apiary sites along Mt Mc Call road.

“TCA is ready to again assist bee keepers in putting new life into the importance of maintaining these access options Mr Chipman concluded.

Ends.

For more information contact Barry Chipman on 6260 4442, 0417 013336