

MEDIA RELEASE



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A Sad Day for Timber Communities

It is with great sadness that yet another timber community falls at the hands of inaction of the previous state Labor government, with the announcement yesterday of the closure of the Gunns Yarloop mill.

Since the inception of the previous governments' 'protecting our old growth forest' (POOGF) policy, the timber industry has faced huge viability problems due to the low quality of saw logs and ever increasing royalties.

The industry and Timber Communities Australia (TCA) has been working tirelessly behind the scenes with the previous Labor government for over 2 years to come to some resolution of the quality issues forced upon the industry by the 'over precautionary principles' implemented in the New Forest Management Plan.

The previous Labor government successfully fulfilled its commitment to protect the environment but on the same platform, failed dismally at fulfilling its commitment for a viable native timber industry.

The closure of the Yarloop mill emphasises this fact, and with the loss of 29 full time employees at Yarloop, TCA can only hope that the new Liberal-National government understand the seriousness of the problems the industry is facing and are more pro-active in dealing with these issues before more job losses become immanent.

Ends.

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