

# Media Release



25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

## **Timber Communities Australia (TCA) Welcomes Minister Burke's Statement to Parliament – Preparing our Forest Industries for the Future.**

Timber Communities Australia (TCA) today welcomed the statement by Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Tony Burke MP, to parliament titled – Preparing our Forest Industries for the Future.

“The Minister’s statement which is written in a tone which reflects the same levels of appreciation and understanding of the social, environmental, economic and aesthetic values of Australia’s forests as very special places, as indeed they are regarded by Australia’s Timber Communities is welcomed”, TCA CEO Jim Adams commented today.

“In particular TCA’s members are encouraged by the Minister’s confirmation of the Government’s recognition of the role that the Regional Forest Agreements have played in delivering sustainable environmental, economic and social outcomes from the management of Australia’s production forests as well as the world class levels of reservation both within the comprehensive and adequate reserve systems established under the RFA’s and within the management reserves established through the codes of management practice also established under the RFA’s”.

“TCA is concerned that these outcomes are not jeopardized by proposed changes to the EPBC Act which potentially could undermine the RFA’s”.

“The Minister’s recognition of the importance of the need to maintain and to continue to expand Australia’s plantation resources and the contribution that this investment makes to Australia’s many Timber Communities is also welcomed”.

“TCA members across Australia but particularly in Tasmania are also heartened by Minister Burke’s unequivocal statements of support for the proposed Bell Bay Pulp mill, subject to environmental compliance”.

“As well the Minister’s statement reflects recognition of the important role that all aspects of Australia’s forest industries can play in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme”.

“These aspects of the Minister’s statement are all welcomed by TCA on behalf of its members and communities across Australia which are dependant of the Forest Industries for their economic, social and environmental viability” Mr. Adams said today.

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Contact: Jim Adams, 0427 211 406