

Media Release



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Carr attempts to give Premier Rees a lesson in the “politics of conservation”.

“TCA supports the initiatives and processes put in place by the Rees government and Minister MacDonald with respect to determining the best environmental, social and economic management options for the management of the NSW River Red Gum forests and urges Mr. Rees not to allow himself, his government or the processes initiated by them to be influenced by Mr. Carr’s cynical “politics of conservation”. Jim Adams, CEO of Timber Communities Australia (TCA) said today.

“It is a cruel irony to say the least that in his call to Mr. Rees recently in relation to the management of the NSW River Red Gum forests, Bob Carr made reference to the Brigalow and South East Forest decisions of his premiership, both of these decisions were clearly nothing more than vote generating exercises in their time and both had disastrous social and environmental implications for the rural communities of the regions”.

“Both these decisions used the tourism argument as part of their justification and in neither region has this bonanzas of tourism promised by Mr. Carr eventuated, just as it will not in the Riverina region. TCA challenges Mr. Carr to substantiate the claims of environmental of social good alleged by him to have been delivered by these decisions”.

“As Premier it was common place for Mr. Carr’s government to seek to buy election success by declaring yet more National Parks somewhere in NSW to appease city voters at the expense of country communities that he appears to despise and consider as dispensable at the alter of electoral success, the Rees Government are to be congratulated for taking a more honest approach to the management of the States iconic red gum forests.”

The NSW Government has spent around \$2 million dollars over the past 18 months on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment of these activities under an agreement made in the land and environment court between itself and the NSW National Parks Association.

The NSW Governments announced Forest Assessment is a proper and legitimate process to ensure sound forest management for a sustainable social, environmental and economic outcome.

Mr. Carr true to his form sees an opportunity for the Rees government to generate political kudos by pre-empting the outcomes of the proper processes.

“Bob Carr should know that there is nothing more pathetic and tedious than an ex public figure trying to relive the glory days and should permanently butt out of NSW State Politics”, Jim Adams NSW CEO of Timber Communities Australia (TCA) said today.

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