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MEDIA RELEASE



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TIME TO TAKE A STAND FOR OUR STATE AND OUR FUTURE.

Timber Communities Australia fully supports the efforts of the forest workers union and the forest contractors association to provide an opportunity for their members and families to come together to take a stand for Tasmania's future.

Following the call by the CFMEU, TCA's 15 regional branches throughout Tasmania have all expressed an overwhelming desire to become fully involved with what transpires.

"Tassie's timber dependent communities with a united voice are saying its time to take a stand for our state and our future" Barry Chipman Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

"Timber families for too long have been enduring a dishonest campaign against their livelihoods by cashed up anti forestry activists peddling mistruths in the streets of Sydney, Melbourne, Tokyo and London even in a New Zealand lobby of a UNESCO conference. Its now time to turn that around."

"Never do you hear of the world-class conservation achievements Tasmania has made, we have 47% of all forest reserved, yet the WWF and the IUCN calls for only 10%."

"What you hear is the outrageous claims that the proposed Bell Bay pulp mill will bring about the melting of New Zealand's South Island snow caps. Fish in Bass Strait will change sex."

"Then just this week in a major mainland daily newspaper was the extreme claim that *Tasmania should become a native flora and fauna reserve and there should be no more industrial or domestic developments* "

"It's becoming evident that these outrageous claims are being felt throughout the wider community, and yes it is time to take a stand for our state and our futures" Mr Chipman concluded.

Ends

For more information contact Barry on 6260 4442 Mob 0417 013336