

TCA Supports calls on water policy

Timber Communities Australia's (TCA) Chief Executive Officer, Jim Adams today supported calls for South East region candidates in the upcoming South Australian election to spell out their policies and positions in regard to water allocation planning in the South East Region.

TCA is concerned that the forest water policy proposed by the South East Natural Resources Management Board (SENRMB) in its draft Water Management Plan (WAP) and draft Natural Resource Management Plan is biased and inequitable. TCA believes that if such policies are accepted, it will lead to dramatic impacts on many local communities in the South East where up to 7,000 families are dependant on the forest and wood processing industries.

"TCA believes that on election day it is important that every voter in the regions is clear on whether their vote is a vote for or against inequitable water policy which will result in substantial reductions in the plantation area in the region putting in doubt many existing and even more future jobs in the region", Jim Adams said today.

"We believe that the proposed forest water policies are the thin edge of the wedge and a serious threat to every dryland cropping system in the region. If tree crops are be licensed for the rain they intercept, then why not every other dryland crop? Other dryland crop producers in the region should also be very concerned about the SENRMB draft forest water policy.

"It is important that on Election Day voters know where their candidates stand on this important local issue".

To assist both the voters and the candidates in this regard TCA is calling upon all candidates in the South East to make their positions on this issue and the forestry industries generally known so that the 20% of the workforce in the South East region who rely on the forest industries can know which candidates support the industry which provides their jobs and supports their families and communities". Mr. Adams concluded.

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