

Media Release

Timber Communities Australia Ltd

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TCA condemns Rees River Red Gum announcement

Timber Communities Australia CEO Jim Adams today condemned the announcement yesterday by out going NSW premier Nathan Rees to establish expansive new River Red Gum National Parks in the NSW Riverina.

“This desperate attempt by Nathan Rees to write his own political epitaph represents a staggering disregard on Mr. Rees behalf of the communities affected as well as for the scientific processes established to consider these issues and indeed for the River Red Gum forest eco-systems themselves’ Mr. Adams said today.

In making this announcement Mr. Rees has totally over-ridden the excellent work currently underway through the Natural Resources Commission which was appointed by his own government to apply scientific consideration to the questions of how best to manage these forests to protect their environmental, social and economic values in the face of the current drought.

“The greatest threats to the river red gum forests are drought and fire, changing their tenure from State Forest to National Park will do absolutely nothing to address these threats, whereas indeed in the absents of flooding, on going active management has been shown to provide both better fire protection and moisture regime management options for the protection of these forests” Mr. Adams claimed today.

TCA has worked closely with the NRM in these studies and it is patently apparent to TCA that the protection of these values is not a land tenure issues, “changing the tenure of these forests while potentially politically rewarding will do absolutely nothing to protect them, nor apparently Mr. Rees” Mr. Adams said.

“TCA supports all efforts made to protect the environmental, social and economic values of the iconic river red gum forests on the basis of balanced scientific assessment, after all the regions timber communities have a greater direct interest in ensuring this is achieved than anyone else” Mr. Adams said.

“However we do not support political opportunism of the sort displayed by Mr. Rees which has now placed the NCR and the scientific validity of its work and finding at risk” Mr. Adams concluded.

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