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## Media Release

### Forest profit keeps North East communities sustainable!

Members of Timber Communities Australia welcome today's announcement by Forestry Tasmania that it has achieved a credible \$9 million operating profit.

"Despite the gloom of the Global Financial Crisis this result is a shining beacon of hope for local regional communities." Ms Eva Down, Northern Tasmania Coordinator said today.

The majority of Forestry Tasmania expenditure is spent in regional areas throughout Tasmania. Over all for this year it was a massive 73 million, including \$88 million to contractors and \$30million to its own staff.

"This in turn means spending in local communities, supporting local businesses and shops. The money from renewable forestry is recycled throughout the retail sector creating further indirect employment.

Rather than be added to State coffers the profit should be used to support family forest based businesses battling the impact of a down turn in international demand.

The global crisis means that that all Tasmanian industries are doing it tough, so it is very welcome news that Forestry Tasmania has returned a operating profit, built on good revenues for all forms of timber products and also on regional tourism.

"Forestry Tasmania continues to play a key role in underpinning community social and economic well being by providing the base resource for much needed jobs in value adding.

"This announcement shows that the forestry is achieving on its triple bottom line, providing an economic return to Tasmania's people as well as providing environmental sustainable forest management." Ms Down concluded.

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