



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **NEW VISION CHALLENGE FOR TIMBER COMMUNITIES**

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Tasmania's community-based organisation representing timber industry participants will be challenged tomorrow to develop a new vision for the industry.

The challenge will come from the Legislative Council Independent Member for Apsley, Tania Rattray Wagner, who will officially opening the Tasmanian State Conference of Timber Communities Australia (TCA) in Launceston tomorrow morning.

"Tasmania's timber industry is on the verge of a new era, especially with the prospect of a new world-class pulp mill now even closer, so a new vision for industry participants is vital to meet the challenges ahead," Ms Rattray Wagner said today.

"I am delighted to have been asked to officially open the TCA State Conference tomorrow because I see it as an opportunity to challenge this successful grass-roots organisation to prepare itself for a new and exciting future for the timber industry in Tasmania.

"To ensure an appropriate balance between development and conservation, I believe any vision for the future of the timber industry should be built on forest industry participants who continue to obey the law, strictly meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code and who are independently audited to prove performance," she said.

"Most importantly, industry participants must commit to sending every stick of timber coming from our forests and plantations to its highest value end use, whether that is veneer or premium grade board product at one end or firewood at the other."

Ms Rattray Wagner said that at the very core of that vision is a total commitment to use every opportunity to add value to timber products in Tasmania.

"If Timber Communities Australia can embrace a vision like this, then individuals will have secure jobs, communities will flourish and our State will have a greater capacity to provide education, health services, law and order, and all the other services Tasmanians need," she said.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION: Tania Rattray Wagner MLC on 0427 523 412**