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Media Release

New Parliament offers bipartisan support for timber families

Both major parties collectively holding 20 seats in the new state parliament offered voters forest policies of solid long term benefits for Tasmanian timber families.

The forest policies of both the Labor and Liberal parties presented hope to families and communities facing present difficulties following last year's world wide economic down turn.

All 53 Liberal and Labor candidates signed a statement of commitment to maintain their support to sustainable forest management and policy development to maintain and enhance the pathway for continued value adding investment across of forestry industry sectors.

"It is very reassuring to know that both major political parties place great importance upon ensuring our forest industry and dependent communities continue to grow and prosper" Barry Chipman, Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

"Despite a hung parliament, Tasmanian timber families can now gain great confidence from the knowledge that both the Labor and Liberal parties at Federal and State level are committed to the social, economic and environmental benefits achieved by a renewable Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement."

The RFA has delivered Tasmania a world class forest reserve system. (details attached)

"With both major parties also committing to provide policy support to the new forest industry growth plan is also very reassuring in the light of threats by the minority Green party and its law breaking anti forestry activists to demand more forest locks."

"The forest policies presented by both the Liberal and Labor parties (that gained 80% support from voters) provide reassurance that there is a future for families who work in or depend upon the continued sustainable management of our working forest and tree farm estate" Mr Chipman concluded.

Ends For more information contact Barry Chipman 62 604442 or 0417 013336