

Media Release

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## **Timber Communities Australia welcome Labor's support to timber workers and Tasmania's sustainable forest management**

Timber dependent communities throughout Tasmania welcome Premier David Bartlett's announcement that Labor will invest \$6.5 million to support our sustainable forest industry and increase employment in the long term.

After studying the ALP policy in detail over the weekend, TCA members both applaud the short term and long term support to the state's new forest growth plan.

"A highly welcomed aspect of the policy is Labor commitment to co-ordinate a whole of industry approach and work in partnership with the community, unions and industry to overcome impediments to job creation and investment. This is a big plus" **Barry Chipman**, Tasmania State Manager of Timber Communities Australia said today.

"Also important is the commitment to immediately negotiation to extend the 20 year Regional Forest Agreement that balances conservation and development. This will greatly enhance timber families long term social and economic well being, and never more important that during this present difficult period.

The RFA has also reserve a million hectares of high conservation old growth forests. Maintaining the RFA is a win win for both employment and conservation."

"TCA also welcomes the policy's move to promote the fact that almost half our 3 million hectares of all aged forests are reserved, and that Tasmania meets international, independent standards for sustainable forest management and environmental management.

We now await the announcement of the State Liberal party forest policy.

"The ALP policy builds on the bipartisan support for the RFA at both State and Federal levels. It moves the debate on from the tired old rhetoric of the Greens and their supporters" Mr. Chipman concluded.

Ends

For more information contact Barry on 03 6260 4442 or 0417 013 336