

Media Release

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**Timber Communities Australia
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TCA welcomes Tasmanian Old Growth, scenario report.

Timber Communities Australia (TCA) Tasmania has welcomed the independent report released by the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania that points to massive job losses, industry closures and timber cost increases if harvesting ceases in old growth forests.

“This important report finally places an economic and social price tag on the job destroying policies of the Greens,” Barry Chipman Tasmanian State Manager Timber Communities Australia said today.

The report provides the answer to the question “what if” the policies of the Greens were adopted and reveals that the consequences would be severe and wide reaching across the Tasmanian economy.

The report, from independent consultants Symetrics Business Intelligence, finds that the potential impacts of the adoption of the Greens policies would include the loss of 2080 direct jobs.

As well the report predicts that an overall 22 percent reduction in sawmill processing resulting in a loss of profitability for regional sawmills, leading to closures and reduced investment, and ultimately undermining the social and economic well being of regional communities.

“Through the RFA and TCFA processes, more than 79 percent of Tasmania’s old growth forest is already protected within Tasmania’s world class forests reserve system. There is no reason why the Greens’ job destroying policy needs to be adopted by any future government,” Mr. Chipman said.

“Tasmania has more than met its forest conservation obligations, The Greens have chosen to continually ignore this world class achievement. As clearly identified in this important report, the Greens continued denial of what has been achieved in the name of conservation will bring severe social and economic loss to regional communities”. Mr. Chipman concluded.

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