

## Media Release

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### FALSE ADVERTISEMENT POINTS TO DECEIT BY OUR COMMON GROUND

Timber Communities Australia (TCA) says the use of inaccurate and misleading statements in a television advertisement placed by Our Common Ground has shown that the group is willing to deceive the public in its attempt to destroy the future livelihoods of Tasmanian timber families.

TCA has received correspondence from the Tasmanian Planning Commission which has confirmed that the advertisement, presented by Dr Warwick Raverty contains false claims relating to Dr Raverty's position and statements made about the pulp mill approval process.

TCA has called for the advertisement to be immediately pulled from airplay and for Our Common Ground to apologise for its attempt to knowingly mislead the Tasmanian public.

In the advertisement, Dr Raverty, identified in the advertisement as a former member of the Resource, Planning and Development Commission (RPDC), states: "*I was appointed to assess Gunns' pulp mill, when the Commission found that the mill did not meet standards, Gunns abandoned the process.*"

TCA Tasmanian State Manager Barry Chipman said the Tasmanian Planning Commission, through Executive Commissioner Greg Alomes, had now advised that while Dr Warwick Raverty was a member of the panel appointed to assess the pulp mill, he '**was not appointed as a member of the Commission.**'

Further, the Planning Commission advised: '***The Commission or assessment panel did not make any conclusive findings in relation to the Gunns pulp mill as the proponent withdrew from the assessment. The assessment of the proposed pulp mill was not undertaken and therefore no findings were made.***'

Mr. Chipman said this clearly shows the advertisement to be false and misleading, and is a demonstration of the ends to which Our Common Ground would go to deceive voters.

"This arrogance towards voters by Dr Raverty and Our Common Ground spokesperson Judy Tierney was again evident when during radio interviews they attempted to dismiss the seriousness of misleading voters as "unimportant", "frivolous" and "minutiae" and having no attention of correcting or pulling their advertisement."

"While TCA is advised that the Electoral Act contains no provisions to regulate truth in political advertising, we are now taking up the issue with the relevant broadcasting organisations because of the seriousness of its false and deceptive nature."

"The fact is that Our Common Ground has now shown its hand and confirmed it has little respect for facts and the truth".

"The group is a sham; its so-called forestry solution was no such thing and by resorting to false claims in its advertising, it demonstrates its true nature. It has confirmed that it is nothing more than just another radical anti-forestry organisation," Mr. Chipman concluded.

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Tasmanian Planning Commission letter to TCA attached.