



ENVIRONMENT
TASMANIA INC



AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 6th November 2008

What: Press Conference

Where: Parliament Lawns, Hobart

When: 1pm this afternoon

UNITED ENVIRONMENT GROUPS TAKE TASMANIAN FOREST SOLUTION TO THE FEDERAL CABINET

Bartlett's involvement in mediated dialogue the key to resolving the issue

Environment groups working towards an end to the conflict over forest management in Tasmania took a united position to meetings with four Federal Cabinet ministers last night in Launceston.

Meetings were positive and environmental campaigners are confident this will mark the start of a constructive working relationship that could see the long-overdue delivery of environmental, social and economic viability to the struggling Tasmanian timber industry.

"We are hopeful requests to the Federal Cabinet and Tasmanian Premier Bartlett to engage in meaningful dialogue and participate in the solution to this long-running dispute will bear fruit" said Dr Phill Pullinger, Director of Environment Tasmania.

"Collectively, we call on Tasmanian Minister David Llewellyn to take a more open and constructive approach than that so far displayed, and help bring the Premier to the table and start talking about a positive way forward," said Vica Bayley, spokesperson for The Wilderness Society.

Recent revelations that forest contractors want assistance to exit the industry, and that sawlogs are in over-supply, show that now is the time for a resolution to this conflict.

"Forestry Tasmania is not the appropriate body to negotiate this conflict. Only Premier Bartlett can, by joining with federal leaders and helping to steer forest conflict to an amicable closure" said Jenny Weber, spokesperson for the Huon Valley Environment Centre.

"Environment groups support a responsible forest industry in Tasmania and are united in the belief that there can be a resolution to the debate that could deliver win-win outcomes for our forests and forest-dependent communities," said Ula Majewski, spokesperson for Still Wild Still Threatened.

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