



Media Release 8 Oct 2010

Environment groups remain committed to a new way for Tasmania's forests

Environment Tasmania, The Wilderness Society and the Australian Conservation Foundation today reconfirmed their unified support for a sustainable timber industry that secures jobs and creates new economic opportunities.

Environment groups have agreed that a pulp mill could be part of the state's economic future but the current Tamar Valley pulp mill proposal is unacceptable.

"The Tamar Valley pulp mill consultation process was flawed from the outset. Environment groups wish to see a sustainable timber industry develop in Tasmania, but it cannot be based on the mistakes of the past" said Paul Oosting, the Wilderness Society.

The environment groups have been negotiating in good faith with the timber industry to bring about an end to long running disputes over forestry in Tasmania. The environment groups remain committed to an end to logging of valuable native forests to ensure the state's natural heritage is safeguarded for all Tasmanians to enjoy and for tourists to continue to visit.

"These negotiations provide the opportunity for a new way of managing and protecting our state's natural heritage. This is essential to secure jobs and the environment." added Dr Phill Pullinger from Environment Tasmania.

There has been some misreporting of the content of the forests talks with some people seeking to misinterpret the nature and content of the talks, but environment groups remain committed to concluding the discussions that have occurred in good faith.

Contact:

Phill Pullinger, Environment Tasmania, 0428 554 934

Paul Oosting, The Wilderness Society, 0409 963 734

Lindsay Hesketh, Australian Conservation Foundation, 0418 655 551