

19 OCTOBER 2010

STATEMENT

on the "Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles to lead to an agreement"

Statement to be delivered by the Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association and Environment Tasmania - two parties to the Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles.

Section to be read by Ed Vincent, Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association;

"Five months ago representatives of environment groups, the timber industry, community and unions began a series of talks to address the crisis within the timber industry and explore options to develop and deliver a solution to the conflict over forestry in Tasmania.

In exploring these options, the groups developed a Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles, to form the basic framework for a new forests agreement for Tasmania. This would be an agreement that aims to deliver a wholistic and lasting solution to the conflict over forestry in Tasmania, protection of our natural environment, the development of a strong and sustainable future for our timber industry and a strong and vibrant future for regional communities and economies in Tasmania.

Today ten organisations who have been involved in the talks confirmed that they have reached agreement on this first stage in the process and signed a Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles."

"We have sought and achieved this Statement of Principles to enable a better future for Tasmania. Tasmania needs support for a new future for our industry, needs support from government for a restructure of our industry, and needs the certainty that a solution like this will bring, to be able to plan for the future," said Mr Vincent

Section to be read by Phill Pullinger, Environment Tasmania;

"Representatives of the parties to the Statement of Principles this morning jointly presented and briefed the Tasmanian Premier, Greens leader Nick McKim and leader of the Opposition, Will Hodgman about the Statement of principles.

The signatories are seeking the support of the Labor, Liberal and Greens parties at a State and Federal level for the implementation of the principles, including the ongoing involvement of the parties to the principles, and a process that now broadens out to involve the whole Tasmanian community in the development and delivery of a solution to the Tasmanian forests conflict.

The groups will now await a formal response in the next few weeks from the State and Federal governments. This is an important milestone, but is only the first step in what will no doubt be a very difficult process over the coming months to deliver the implementation of these principles and a new forests agreement for Tasmania.

"We now have a unique opportunity to move beyond the decades of conflict

over our native forests. This is an important first step in finding a solution." said Phill Pullinger.

Statement delivered by:

Mr Ed Vincent, CEO, The Tasmanian Forest Contractor's Association (TFCA)
Dr Phill Pullinger, Director, Environment Tasmania (ET)

Signatories to the Statement of Principles (alphabetical order):

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
The Australian Forest Contractor's Association (AFCA)
The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)
Environment Tasmania Inc (ET)
The Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT)
The National Association of Forestry (NAFI)
Tasmanian Country Sawmiller's Federation (TCSF)
The Tasmanian Forest Contractor's Association (TFCA)
Timber Communities Australia Ltd (TCA)
The Wilderness Society (TWS)

The 'Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles to lead to an agreement' is appended as an attachment.