



## Media Release 19 November 2010

# Groups welcome Premier's progress on Forest principles and look for Prime Minister's support

Environment groups welcomed the Tasmanian Government's progress on developing a process for implementing the Forests Statement of Principles. They called on Prime Minister Julia Gillard to take this unique opportunity and support the implementation of the peace agreement.

Dr Phill Pullinger, Director of Environment Tasmania said, "It's great that the Premier and State government have nearly bedded down the process for implementing the Forest Statement of Principles. It's also encouraging to see that the participation of environment groups and the broader community is seen as a critical part of the implementation process.

"The support of the Prime Minister and the Commonwealth government is now essential to use this opportunity to protect Tasmania's globally unique forests, reform our timber industry and resolve the conflict," he said

Paul Oosting, spokesperson for the Wilderness Society added that "the ball is now in the Federal Government's court. There is ongoing logging of high-conservation value forests around the state while timber contractors urgently need exit support and interim assistance.

"Now is the time for the Gillard government to urgently start the implementation process by protecting the high-conservation value forests and helping contractors and timber workers to exit the industry.'

"By implementing the forest principles, Prime Minister Gillard has a once in a generation opportunity to protect our special forests and secure a sustainable future for timber workers," Mr Oosting concluded.

### Contact:

Phill Pullinger 0428 554 934

Paul Oosting 0409 963 734

Lindsay Hesketh 0418 655 551