



EMBARGOED TO 3:30 PM

MEDIA RELEASE

3 October 2011

**Kingston beach message to Prime Minister:
'Thanks but you must now move on forest protection'**

On Kingston Beach this afternoon, a cross section of the community supportive of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreements spelt out a message to the Community Cabinet Meeting in Kingston, saying "Thanks, but ..."

"We have come here today for two reasons. First, we want to thank the Prime Minister for showing leadership in reaching the historic forest agreement with the Tasmanian Government. Second, we need her to now follow through on the details of the agreement, sign the conservation agreement and stop the ongoing logging in identified forest reserves" said Vica Bayley of the Wilderness Society.

"Of course, we recognise the tough circumstances for timber workers and welcome the exit support provided through this agreement" said Dr Phill Pullinger of Environment Tasmania.

"However protecting unique and important native forests is a fundamental pillar of this agreement. It's delivery is just as crucial as support for timber workers and contractors" he added.

"The Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania and the Australian Conservation Foundation, now call on the Prime Minister to sign the federal-state conservation agreement. This will safeguard the initial 430,000 ha reserves of the identified high conservation value forest from logging," concluded Vica Bayley.

All three ENGOs reiterated their committed to continue to work with the signatories and government to deliver on the promise of this agreement and all of the principles embedded in the original Statement of Principles.

Contacts:

Vica Bayley, The Wilderness Society

0400 644 939