



MEDIA RELEASE

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Environment groups' statement on start to forest protection

We welcome the announcement made by Mr Kelty and the Premier Lara Giddings today that a breakthrough has been made in relation to an agreement that will not only lead to the protection of agreed areas of high conservation value forests but it will guarantee wood supply for the forestry industry.

"We welcome the start of a moratorium on logging in the agreed high conservation value forests reserve areas but stress that there is considerable work to be done to implement a full moratorium on logging in these valuable forests." said Vica Bayley spokesperson for The Wilderness Society.

"Implementing all of the principles won't be easy, but they provide the best opportunity for a more sustainable future and development path for regional Tasmania. These principles need to be put into action and that is what has happened today" said Dr Pullinger spokesperson for Environment Tasmania.

"Environment groups are heartened by the strong support being shown by the Tasmanian government in beginning work on implementing the first steps of protecting our native forests and reforming and supporting the timber industry," said Lindsay Hesketh spokesperson for Australian Conservation Foundation.

The ENGOs have agreed to work with the contractors, the unions and industry, to implement this moratorium and to ensure future logging occurs outside high conservation value forests.

The statement of principles is the result of five months of discussions, undertaken in good faith, on the future for the forestry industry and native forests in Tasmania.

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