

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Landmark forest agreement needs government backing: environment groups

Environment Tasmania and the Australian Conservation Foundation, the two environment groups to sign the Tasmanian forests agreement, have called on the Federal and Tasmanian governments to fund the landmark deal.

“This historic agreement to protect high conservation value forests and help Tasmania’s timber sector become an industry based on plantations and value adding has been a long time coming and its now time for governments to seize the day,” said Don Henry, CEO of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

“Environment groups, timber contractors, unions and the industry have managed to come to an agreement that opens the way for governments to protect more than half a million hectares of Tasmania’s high conservation value native forests, support workers and help create a sustainable timber industry.

“This opportunity must not be allowed to slip,” Mr Henry said.

“It has been many months of hard work to reach this historic point,” said Dr Phill Pullinger, Director of Environment Tasmania.

“Tasmania’s forests are too important – as habitat, as water purifiers, as carbon stores, as tourist attractions and as global natural icons – for governments to allow the decades-long conflict over them to continue.

“The Federal and Tasmanian governments need to provide the funding to implement this crucial agreement,” Dr Pullinger said.

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