



ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA
The Conservation Council



AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Media Release

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LACK OF ACTION FROM GIDDINGS GOVT THREATENS FORESTS AGREEMENT

A deadline of 15 March for a moratorium on further logging and road construction in key unprotected native forests is at risk as the Tasmanian Government has still not directed Forestry Tasmania to implement the agreement made with environment groups and industry.

The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation and Environment Tasmania have written to the Premier, the Minister for Primary Industries Bryan Green and the Leader of the Tasmanian Greens, calling on the government to issue an urgent directive to Forestry Tasmania to implement the moratorium in full by 15 March.

"Missing the agreed deadline risks resolution of Tasmania's long running forestry debate," Dr Phill Pullinger, Director for Environment Tasmania.

The three environment groups and the forestry industry - signatories to the 'Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles' - have agreed that a moratorium on logging in high conservation value native forests will be followed by legislative protection of these forests in formal reserves.

On 14 December last year the Tasmanian and Federal Governments committed to deliver the Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles.

Bill Kelty was appointed facilitator and the delivery of two key parallel processes over a three month period was agreed: a moratorium on logging within high conservation value forests and an interim wood-supply arrangement for sawmills outside of the high conservation value forests, both due to be delivered by 15 March.

"An agreement is an agreement. The Tasmanian public has a right to expect that if the Tasmanian Government has said it will put a moratorium on the logging of these ancient forests in place by the 15th of March, then it must deliver on its promise," said Vica Bayley, forest campaigner for The Wilderness Society.

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