

Tabled document no: 02

By: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig,
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries
& Forestry

Date: 20 October 2010



The Hon. Tony Burke MP

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and
Communities

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Hon. Simon Crean MP

Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local
Government; Minister for the Arts

M E D I A R E L E A S E

GILLARD GOVERNMENT WELCOMES FORESTRY AGREEMENT

The Australian Government today welcomed the landmark agreement between industry and environmental NGOs in Tasmania on the future of the Tasmanian forestry industry and the future of the state's native forests.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke, said, "It is a credit to those involved that after decades of disagreement they have been able to work through complex problems to forge a new consensus."

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, said the Gillard Labor Government recognises the need for a balanced and sustainable approach to native forest management.

"I know many people have worked very hard to get this agreement to this stage," Minister Ludwig said.

"Today's agreement is a positive move, balancing the conservation and sustainable development and management of Tasmania's forest resources."

The Minister for Regional Australia Simon Crean said the agreement was a step in the right direction.

"With this agreement in place we will work with Tasmanian timber communities as they move to develop a more diverse and secure economic base."
The Australian Government, like the Tasmanian Government, will take a close interest in the details of the agreement.

We will be engaging closely with the parties involved and will carefully consider these principles.

We expect to speak with the negotiating group over coming days.

The parties to the agreement include: Timber Communities Australia; The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union; The National Association of Forestry Industries; The Australian Forest Contractors Association; The Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association; Environment Tasmania Inc; The Wilderness Society; Australian Conservation Foundation; Tasmanian Country Sawmillers Federation; and Forest Industries Association of Tasmania.

These organisations have been able to work cooperatively together and the Gillard Labor

Government expects to work in a similar spirit with the Tasmanian Government.

Minister Burke's Media contact: Andrew Bourke 0400 117 570

Minister Ludwig's Media contact: Sarah McSporran 0423 823 843

Minister Crean's Media contact: Clinton Porteous 0403 369 588