

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**TASMANIAN FORESTS REFERENCE GROUP OF SIGNATORIES**

**DRAFT LEGISLATION WELCOMED**

The Signatories Reference Group established under the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement today welcomed the tabling of the draft legislation for the agreement. The legislation has been drafted as a broad framework that is flexible and can be modified to encompass the details of the agreement reached by the signatories. The Signatories believe that the legislation should facilitate and be aligned with the outcomes and timing of an agreement.

Industry representative on the Signatories Group, Terry Edwards, Chief Executive of the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania, said that the draft legislation was a good step forward, but will need to be flexible enough to be amended if required, "The legislation is broadly framed and needs to be flexible enough to facilitate and be aligned with any agreement struck by the signatories", he said.

Vica Bayley from the Wilderness Society said, "We are still working hard on reaching a final signatories agreement – so the final legislation will inevitably need to be fine-tuned to encompass the outcomes of a signatories agreement if reached,"

Timber Communities Australia Chief Executive Officer Jim Adams added that "the means by which any potential agreement would be as durable as possible is also vital for all parties, and will be enhanced by a legislative framework that can encompass the outcomes of a signatories agreement."

The Signatories last week committed to and the governments accepted a deadline of 23 July to conclude the signatory negotiations and provide a detailed report back to the State and Federal Governments. The signatories negotiations are continuing to proceed in good faith, with parties working together on collecting critical data for models and options, and an agreement with key components including a shared vision, durability, wood supply, reserves and a transition during this period.

21 June 2012

The Signatories are:

Jim Adams representing *Timber Communities Australia Ltd*

Jane Calvert representing the *Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union*

Dr Hans Drielsma representing the *Australian Forest Products Association*

Terry Edwards representing the *Forest Industries Association of Tasmania*

Ken Padgett representing the *Australian Forest Contractors Association*

Ed Vincent representing the *Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association*

Dr Phill Pullinger representing *Environment Tasmania Inc*

Vica Bayley representing the *Wilderness Society Inc*

Don Henry representing the *Australian Conservation Foundation*

Fred Ralph representing the *Tasmanian Sawmillers Association*