



Media Statement

Wednesday 5th October 2004

WORKERS WELCOME LATHAM FOREST PACKAGE

Timber Workers for Forests (TWFF), a group representing approximately 650 specialty timber workers, welcome Mark Latham's forest package for Tasmania.

Spokesman for the group Graham Green said "We are very pleased that Mark Latham's package has promised surety of specialty timber supply to sustain high value-added uses under a selective harvest system."

"Our sector is labour intensive and has been directly threatened by industrial forestry which has decimated 50,000 hectares of our resource base since the RFA was signed. We rely on the use of timbers up to 800 years old for our businesses. These timbers are not being replaced under current management. Without federal intervention our supply of quality timbers would have dried up within 10 years thanks to the wotchippers", Mr Green said.

"Mark Latham's package is a big breakthrough. We believe it provides a win-win scenario that appeases conservationists and ensures that high value uses are no longer compromised by clearfelling and conversion to plantations", Mr Green said.

"With a reduction in the area of production forest available under Labor's package, the incentive will be increased for maximising processing of Tasmanian timbers within the State and using our available timber more wisely – this can only be a positive thing", Mr Green said.

For comment: Graham Green, President of TWFF on 0422 936027

Timber Workers for Forests are: sawmillers, boat builders, bushmen, craftsmen, builders, cabinet makers, furniture makers and sculptors