

## **MEDIA RELEASE: SERCA CHIPBUSTERS**

23 July 2010

### **JULIA CAN LEAP FORWARD ON CLIMATE CHANGE RIGHT NOW WITH CONSENSUS - JUST SAVE THE FORESTS, NOT WOODCHIP AND BURN THEM!**

Conservation groups today urged PM Julia Gillard to not only move forward on climate change but to leap forward with the clear support of at least 80% of Australians, at little cost

"The PM could reduce Australian's CO2 emissions by nearly 10% at a stroke just by stopping the industrial logging and woodchipping of Australia's native forests," said Noel Plumb and Prue Acton OBE, spokespersons for the groups. "A no pain move forward, a giant leap forward on climate change AND forests"

"We don't need to wait a moment longer for consensus to do this. The most recent national poll on this very question was answered with a ringing YES by 80% of Australians (Galaxy poll May 2010 )"

"Instead her Government, supported by the Liberal Party, is proposing to burn native forests for electricity using the same lie that the woodchip industry has used for 40 years, that it is just 'waste'."

" WASTE ?' when on average across Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and NSW 80% of all trees felled in our forests goes straight to the nearest woodchip mill."

"What is needed is an immediate commitment to rule out woodchipping and burning our forests and instead commit to a rapid transition of all logging to plantations on a regional basis across the country."

"This would be real leadership on fighting climate change AND protection of our unique, precious wildlife AND conservation of our water resources, all at once."

"There is now enough plantation resource to supply all our timber needs and to provide more than enough sustainable, secure and much safer jobs for all the workers currently employed in the woodchip devastation of our forests."

"AND it would be a relatively small cost to restructure the logging industry to complete such a transfer within just a year or two given the huge amount of plantation timber now coming online."

"Now is the time for action and real leadership by the PM. Not in a years time, not in two years time but NOW," concluded Noel and Prue.

For further comment and supporting information:-

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