

Is protecting Australia's State Forests our most cost-effective climate action?

(map)

**“Money for nothing and your chips for free” – “a sea of red from State forests” sets the stage for the presentation by Actuary Naomi Edwards at Forests and Climate Forum 13 August 2011**

Naomi Edwards along with Dr. Judith Ajani ANU economist, Dr. Phil Phillinger and Gemma Tillick both from Environment Tasmania will be stars at the Forest and Climate Forum 13 August at Australian National University.

They promise a very lively joint presentation in the morning session "Jobs, Dollars & Sense in State forest" including the latest on \$276M Tasmanian Forest Agreement.

A new report by actuary Naomi Edwards shows Native forest logging is an expensive drain on state budgets states has highlighted the massive difference in profitability between state forestry corporations involved in logging native forests and those involved in plantation forestry.

The report shows that state forestry corporations in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania have repeatedly delivered negative returns to those states while South Australia, which is only involved in plantation forestry, has delivered significant positive returns.

- The native forest logging industry is in systemic decline and experiencing a disorderly collapse in many states. Profitability, resource availability, market size and employment are reducing rapidly and plantation based competition continues relentlessly.
- State forestry corporations, with the notable exception of Forestry SA (which is wholly plantation based) are struggling financially and placing demands on state budgets.
- In 2010, despite receiving over \$40 million in state and federal grants, state forestry corporations involved in native forest logging made losses of \$43 million.
- Over the same period, Forestry SA made a profit of \$46 million from its softwood plantation operations.

Leading Australian climate-change scientists will come together with economists, politicians and high profile conservationists at the Australian National University, to look at current policies on public forests and implications for the mainland post Tasmanian forest negotiations.

**The national Forests and Climate Forum will be held from 9am, Saturday 13th August, at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, 131 Garran Road, Australian National University, Canberra.**

**Media inquiries: Prue Acton 0419393203, Mike Thompson 0417 217 Naomi Edwards: mobile 0408 878 089**

***Naomi Edwards BSc (Hons) FIA FIAA FNZSA MAICD***

*Naomi is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in London and in Australia As an actuary her core skills relate to building financial models of complex situations and assessing future risk.*

