



## Legislative Council

# MEDIA RELEASE

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### **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED NATIVE FOREST CHANGES**

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A Legislative Council Committee has agreed to hold an inquiry into the impact of the proposed lock-up of Tasmania's native timber resources.

Independent Member for Western Tiers Greg Hall MLC, who will chair the inquiry, said today the Government Administration Committee agreed to the inquiry following widespread community concern about the proposed transition out of the management and harvesting of Tasmania's public native forests.

'The Committee Members believe that, given recent announcements about the future of our native forests, it is time to shine a light on what has been a long and drawn-out process largely conducted behind closed doors,' Mr Hall said.

'The decisions and agreements announced in recent days have the potential to directly affect the future of many Tasmanian communities, as well as businesses and individual workers.'

Mr Hall said it was a core responsibility of elected Members of Parliament, particularly those in the Legislative Council, to ensure that Tasmania's best interests are served by the actions of the State Government.

'In this case, where much of the discussion and decision-making has been less than open and transparent, a Legislative Council inquiry is the most appropriate way to ensure that there is full disclosure and public accountability,' he said.

'The Committee is seeking to conduct this inquiry quickly and comprehensively by speaking with the major stakeholders who have been involved in the decision-making and also to the major organisations who represent other stakeholders.'

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**FURTHER INFORMATION: Greg Hall MLC on 0418 132 997**