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David Beddall
Minister for Resources

MEDIA RELEASE

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ANDERSON GETS IT WRONG ON FORESTS AGAIN

"In a question to the Deputy Prime Minister today, Mr Anderson claimed that there were no economic or social assessments carried out as part of the Government's Deferred Forests Assessment (DFA) process. This is blatantly wrong," the Minister for Resources, David Beddall said today.

"If Mr Anderson had bothered to check with anyone involved in the work that has been underway for the last six months he would have been told what was happening. He just did not bother to try and get it right," Mr Beddall said.

"The whole objective of the DFA process is to identify areas for interim protection that allow the creation of a national reserve system in keeping with our NFPS commitments.

"At the same time we have set out to minimise any impacts on industry and communities as a result of DFA decisions.

"The Government has already released a discussion paper outlining the approach that has been adopted for the socio-economic studies that are part of the DFA/Regional Forests Agreement (RFA) process.

"Commonwealth and State officials have developed rescheduling options that will ensure that impacts on industry will be minimised during the period of the DFA.

"Case studies have been completed that outline the social characteristics of timber communities to better understand what the impact of decisions might be.

"In addition, ABARE has been carrying out extensive economic studies of the industry. For example, identifying employment by forest regions and income distribution.

"This work gives a good picture of the economic and social structure of the industry.

"Mr Anderson should spend his time outlining what the Opposition's forest policy is - at the moment it's a giant black hole," Mr Beddall said.

Further information:

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