



National Association of
Forest Industries



Media Release

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NAFI welcomes appointment of Tasmanian forest facilitator

Australia's peak forest industry body welcomes the appointment today of Bill Kelty as independent facilitator for the next phases of the Tasmanian forest negotiations.

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) said the facilitator will play an important role in progressing the Tasmanian negotiations.

"The appointment of Mr Kelty is an important step which will allow the second phase of the Tasmanian forest negotiations to commence," said NAFI Chief Executive Officer, Allan Hansard.

"The signing of the Statement of Principles has set guideposts for a detailed assessment of the Tasmanian forest industry and conservation requirements. The next step will involve a wide variety of stakeholders and require a large amount of work.

"We need to get on with the next stage so we can lock in the long-term certainty, investment and growth that the Tasmanian forest industry, its workers and communities deserve. We are already seeing the human cost to timber workers, forest contractors, their families and communities associated with mill closures.

"We look forward to Mr Kelty overseeing a process which will strike the right balance between the interests of the forest industry, its workers, the community and environmental organisations.

"This will help ensure that the industry in Tasmania is healthy and growing.

"NAFI applauds the quick follow-up response by the Federal Government on this issue and look forward to working with Mr Kelty throughout the coming process," he said.

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