



## Media Release

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### Tasmanian Forest Contractor Assistance Welcome

Australia's national forest industry body welcomes the Gillard and Bartlett governments' announcement that Tasmanian forest contractors will be able to apply for urgent financial assistance over coming weeks.

The \$22.4 million package will provide exit assistance and ongoing business support for Tasmanian forest contractors who have been struggling due to a downturn in export markets and the global financial crisis (GFC).

NAFI Chief Executive Officer, Allan Hansard, said the funding will be welcome by the Tasmanian industry as it moves through a time of significant change.

"This represents a good starting point to deal with the urgent situation facing the Tasmanian contracting businesses that have had their backs against the wall for some time," he said.

"The funding announced will assist in seeing some of the contractors exit the industry and interim assistance for those businesses able to weather the current downturn.

"The industry in Tasmania is experiencing a time of significant adjustment. This funding will be particularly important given the recent signing of the 'statement of principles' between industry and environment groups, the exit of a major timber company from the native hardwood sector and the ongoing impacts of the GFC."

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Media contact:

Greg Haraldson, NAFI Communications Manager

0419 428 646

(02) 6285 3833

[greg.haraldson@nafi.com.au](mailto:greg.haraldson@nafi.com.au)