



## Media Release

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### Senator Milne does not even know her own backyard

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) says Senator Christine Milne's comments on today's ABC radio Country Hour program are incorrect and offensive to the residents of the Tasmanian community of Preolenna. Clearly Ms Milne does not even know her own back yard.

"Ms Milne claims this community has been destroyed by the expansion of plantation forests in the area; saying the houses have been bulldozed and the school bus has stopped running, leaving behind nothing but a plaque. I'd be interested to see the 'study' these claims are based on so its factual basis can be assessed," said Allan Hansard, CEO of NAFI.

"If Ms Milne bothered speak to the residents of this area she would find that this is a vibrant and thriving community, where the houses are still standing and the school bus continues to run.

"To say that plantation expansion in the area has caused the decline of the community is in stark contrast with the comments by residents themselves. Many residents of Preolenna credit plantations with saving their community by reversing the downward spiral of the region caused by an aging farming population and falling commodity prices. In fact, the Preolenna Festival was recently awarded the Australia Day award for Waratah-Wynyard Community Event of the Year – which reflects the on-going robustness of the region.

"While it's become common-place for the Greens to be flexible with the truth, I hope this time Ms Milne will recognise that she has gone too far and apologise to the residents of Preolenna," said Mr Hansard.

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