

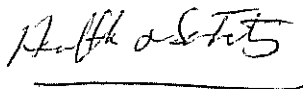
OTWAY TIMBER WORKERS SAY ENOUGH

The patience of timber workers is being tested as greenies have once again invaded working coupes in the Otways. The CFMEU Forestry union has called on the Government to immediately remove protestors in order to allow an orderly return to work.

Jane Calvert CFMEU Forestry Union State Secretary said:

“Our members have come to the end of their tether in relation to green protest action in their workplace. Workers lose income and their workplace safety is severely compromised by these coupe invasions and machinery lock-ons.”

Ms Calvert continued:



“This latest round of protest action is a disgrace. Given that none of the coupes currently targeted for action are actually contentious coupes, it must be concluded that greenies are using disruption to workers as a way to attack the Government about other issues. In effect, our members are being used as hostages.”

Workers are not the decision makers in relation to forest use. If greenies want to argue they should target the decision makers not the workers.”

The union has recently held meetings with the Government to warn them of a potential flare up in the Otways if workers continue to be targeted by green protestors.

Ms Calvert commented:

“The frustration level of workers and their families is at breaking point. The bottom line is that to prevent an escalation of the problem the Government must act and must act now.”

A union meeting of all Otway bush workers will be held on Tuesday 14/12/99 to report back any response from the Government.

For further comment contact Jane Calvert 0419 346 531 or (03) 9348 1888.
13/12/99