

# Push For The Bush

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on behalf of many groups and individuals concerned about  
management of public & private land in Victoria.

## **RUDD FOREST POLICY STALE SAYS FORMER UNION OFFICIAL**

A former ACTU industrial officer has condemned Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd's forest policy as a "stale return to the past when Labor sold out timber workers to bargain for Green preferences."

"It's an election strategy that was adopted by Bob Hawke in the 1980's and has been reused by Labor with nauseating regularity for two decades," said Mr. Richardson who worked for the ACTU for twelve years up until 1997.

"Rudd is campaigning under a 'fresh thinking' banner but he is a clone of Hawke, Keating and Latham on this issue."

"Rudd is plainly leaving open his options to create more national parks in Tasmania and on the mainland in electorates such as Eden Monaro."

"if this were not the case he would clearly state "no more national parks under a Rudd Labor government," said Mr Richardson who now works for rural lobby group Push For The Bush.

"As the ACTU officer responsible for forest industries, Labor often made commitments to me and the unions about the security of forest workers jobs. They never kept a single commitment. They did not regard even signed agreements as binding."

"They were quite prepared to sacrifice the Tasmanian economy and mainland timber towns such as Orbost to stay in government."

"It is because of Labor Australia has an annual trade deficit in forest products," concluded Mr. Richardson

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