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Brown claims seat at risk over legal bill

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Greens leader Bob Brown says bankruptcy could force him out of the senate. (AAP)

The Australian Greens leader Bob Brown says he's in danger of being expelled from the Senate because of possible bankruptcy proceedings.

Senator Brown has three weeks to raise \$240,000 to reimburse Forestry Tasmania for legal fees it incurred during a court case over logging in the Wielangta Forest in the state's south-east.



Forestry Tasmania says the Greens leader has had ample time to settle the matter.

Senator Brown is asking his supporters to seek public donations to help cover the debt.

"I simply don't have \$240,000 and have put a huge amount of money already into this court case and to defending the Gunns 20 court case," Senator Brown said.

"Last time I looked at my bank balance it was much less than \$10,000," he said.

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<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/09/2592759.htm>

NOTES

Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a Standards Development Organisation and a not-for-profit public company registered in July 2003. The company owns the standard development functions and manages the elements of the **Australian Forest Certification Scheme**. The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS) will:

- provide Australian and overseas consumers with an independent, internationally recognised third-party certification scheme for forest management in Australia
- promote a culture of 'continuous improvement' of the sustainable forest management practices in Australia
- support a market for forest products that are a result of sustainable forest management practices and value adding processes that maintain the integrity of the source forest certification and promote the broader environmental benefits of using wood-based
- products.

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) PEFC is a framework for the mutual recognition of credible national or regional forest certification schemes that have been developed based on internationally recognised requirements for sustainable forest management. Since its launch in 1999, PEFC has become the largest forest certification umbrella organisation covering national schemes from all over the world, delivering hundreds of millions of tonnes of wood to the processing industry and then on to the market place from over 200 million hectares of certified forests. PEFC has strong grass roots support from many stakeholders including the forestry sector, governments, trade associations, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.

Forest Certification Forest certification is a process, which provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that the wood used in the products comes from sustainably managed forests. Sustainably managed forests are those whose management implements performance standards based on internationally agreed environmental, social and economic requirements.

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