LETTER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill,

Dear Councillors,

I operate a Tasmanian business that supplies goods and services to Ta Ann Tasmania and other processors in the Forest Sector seek your support.

Ta Ann Tasmania is committing to an ongoing future in Tasmania operating its Smithton and Huon Mills to produce certified veneer from forests allocated for production under the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement.

This commitment seeks to protect the value of the operation to the regional economy, and importantly the future of their employees as well as our employees in supplying good and services to the company.

The company generates a demand for forest contractors, transport and associated services, including Port and stevedoring, road transport and fuel, insurance and professional services, engineering maintenance and the supply of material handling equipment.

I believe there is a need to rebuild Ta Ann Tasmania’s markets, and to secure the future of the two veneer plants.

Both the State and Federal Governments have committed to support for continued operations, giving an increased level of comfort to the company. So too have the major Environmental Groups.

I believe that the legislation offers support for increased regional economic activity based upon a sustainable timber industry in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

Susanne T Forward

Director – Bobcat Tasmania
11/12/2012

Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill.

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I believe that the legislation offers support for increased regional economic activity based upon a sustainable timber industry in Tasmania.

Les Walkden
Managing Director
10 December 2012

LETTER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Dear Councillors,

RE: Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill

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Yours Faithfully

David and Luan Berry
Managers
Rocky Cape Christian Community

Elmendorf Hutterian Brethren (Australia) Inc
19509 Bass Highway, Detention River, Tasmania 7321
Telephones: 03 6443 4269
E-mail rockymacapecommunity@gmail.com
www.thecommonlife.com.au

11 December 2012

LETTER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill,

Dear Councillors,

I operate a Tasmanian business that supplies goods and services to Ta Ann Tasmania and other processors in the Forest Sector seek your support.

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I believe that the legislation offers support for increased regional economic activity based upon a sustainable timber industry in Tasmania.

Hank Wurtz
Workshop Supervisor, RCCC Metal Fabrication
From: Paul Swifte [mailto:paulswifte@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, 10 December 2012 1:45 PM
To: rosemary.arnhill@parliament.tas.gov.au; ivan.dean@parliament.tas.gov.au;
craig.farrell@parliament.tas.gov.au; kerry.finch@parliament.tas.gov.au;
ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au; michael.gaffney@parliament.tas.gov.au;
vanessa.goodwin@parliament.tas.gov.au; greg.hall@parliament.tas.gov.au;
paul.harris@parliament.tas.gov.au; rumney@parliament.tas.gov.au;
tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au; sue.smith@parliament.tas.gov.au;
adriana.taylor@parliament.tas.gov.au; rob.valentine@parliament.tas.gov.au;
jim.wilkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Subject: Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill

Dear Councillors,

I own and manage a Tasmanian business that supplies services to Ta Ann Tasmania, other processors in the Forest Sector and other Tasmanian businesses and write to seek your support.

A combination of the GFC and unrest in the Forest Industry has reduced our turnover by 60% resulting in staff reductions and charitable contributions to a wide range of charities.

Ta Ann Tasmania is committing to an ongoing future in Tasmania operating its Smithton and Huon Mills to produce certified veneer from forests allocated for production under the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement.

This commitment seeks to protect the value of the operation to the regional economy, and importantly the future of their employees as well as our employees in supplying services to the company.

The company generates a demand for forest contractors, transport and associated services, including Port and stevedoring, road transport and fuel, insurance and professional services, engineering maintenance and the supply of material handling equipment.

Both the State and Federal Governments have committed to support for continued operations, giving an increased level of comfort to the company. So too have the major Environmental Groups.

My greatest fear is that if you do not support this legislation you are sending a very strong message to investors and business groups that it is now almost impossible to do business in Tasmania and why would you bother to invest here?

If our children wish to have a future life in Tasmania this will depend on our ability to provide meaningful employment opportunities for them.

For their sake I ask that you support this Bill to provide some economic prosperity to our State as well as hopefully bring "peace to the forests".

Yours sincerely,

Paul Swifte
Managing Director
Dear Councillor,

Many of you know of my close involvement over the past 12 years in helping to modernise and develop the forest products sector in Tasmania. For Whetstone, as a small business, dependant on the forest sector the past three years of uncertainty has had a significant impact, our revenue from the sector has fallen by over 60% and we have had to reduce the number of people we employ.

I have had a close working relationship with Ta Ann Tasmania since they first became interested in establishing a business in Tasmania. I remember the assurances that were given on the durability of the Regional Forest Agreement as a guarantee to long term timber supply. Regrettably, subsequent events proved this wrong. A combination of events, including the coercion that ENGOs use in the marketplace means that a new basis for achieving stability of the timber industry was required. The Tasmanian Forest Agreement, for the first time, is a document that ENGO groups have signed rather than walked out on at the 11th hour (as happened in Helsham and the Community Forest Agreements). I think that for the good of what will remain of the forest industry, as a community we have to support what the signatories have agreed on, even if unpalatable to some.

Ta Ann Tasmania, as our remaining largest single producer of hardwood timber products is in danger of closing. Such an outcome is not in Tasmania’s interest and would be devastating for the families of their workforce and for the many companies that service and support Ta Ann Tasmania’s operations (ours included). While there is compensation for those companies who have direct contracts for forest products to exit the industry, for the road transport, fuel, insurance, professional services, engineering maintenance and suppliers of the myriad of requirements there is nothing. Nor, does the paltry regional support package offered by the Australian Government offer much joy to these latter groups. If there is nothing to maintain how does a company that provides maintenance services or product transport benefit from the regional support package diversify to do what? Losing a company like Ta Ann Tasmania will compound the devastating blows that the Tasmanian economy has already suffered.

The legislative path offers the only reasonable basis on which a company like Ta Ann Tasmania can commit to continuing to operate its Smithton and Huon Mills. Agreement with the ENGOs will hopefully deliver the goodwill to rebuild markets lost through their coercive actions of the past. Regrettably, there will continue to be people who remain “outside the tent”, but with the main ENGOs committed to the Agreement the relevance and power of the radical element hopefully will evaporate.

There is little to gain from resisting the changes that the negotiations have achieved, selling Tasmanian products in the face of listless international economies and an uncompetitive Australian dollar is difficult (for Ta Ann Tasmania the exchange rate move has been equal to about a negative 30% impact), couple these factors with action that undermines that product in the market and the condition becomes nigh impossible. The opportunity to maintain what forest-based regional economic activity will remain is a major imperative for Tasmania.
I urge you to support legislating the agreement reached by the IGA parties. But, I also ask that you examine the Bill closely against the signatories’ agreement and ensure that all the provisions and guarantees for security of access to timber are clearly spelt out in the legislation, I am concerned that they are not.

Dario Tomat  
Director  
Whetstone Pty Ltd  
79 Melville St Hobart 7000  
GPO Box 84 Hobart 7001  
Ph 03 6231 9095  
Fx 03 6231 9096  
Mb 0412 291 450

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Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill  10/12/12

Dear Councillors,

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Both the State and Federal Governments have committed to support for continued operations, giving an increased level of comfort to the company. So too have the major Environmental Groups.

I believe that the legislation offers support for increased regional economic activity based upon a sustainable timber industry in Tasmania.

Regards

Kent Lyon

---

Kent Lyon
Phone: 03 6423 1280
Fax: 03 6423 1282
LETTER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill,

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Yours Faithfully

Bruce Monson
Managing Director
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Victor Jamieson
Findlater & Sons Pty Ltd
63 Wragg St
Somerset,
Tasmania. 7322
Ph: 03 6435 1215
Fax: 03 6435 3415
Mob: 0437 351 104
victor@findlaterandsons.com.au

10th December 2012.
Dear councillors,

I manage a retail business that supplies goods and services to both Ta Ann Tasmania, its employees and other processors in the forest industry that seek your support.

Ta Ann is committed to an ongoing future in Tasmania

This commitment seeks to protect the value of the operation to the local economy

More importantly the future of their employees as well as ours

Ta Ann generates a demand for forest contractors, transport and associated services, including port and stevedoring, road transport and fuel.

I believe there is a need to rebuild the markets for both of the veneer plants

State and Federal Governments have committed to support the continued operation

I believe the legislation offers strong support for local economy based on a sustainable timber industry in Tasmania
11 December, 2012

Reference: Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill

Dear Councillors,

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Regards,

Mark Millhouse
Fluidline Co-Director / Technical Consultant
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Regards

Michael Moy
Tasmanian Bearing & Chain
80 Sunderland St., Derwent Park
Tasmania 7009
ph.6273 2777
0409520421
fx 62726500
michael@tasbearing.com.au

TAS BEARING & CHAIN
Tas Workwear Group

Dear Alan Ashberry,

We strongly support TA Ann Tasmanian and will send our support letter to the legislative council.

Kind Regards

Peter Cui
Managing Director
TAS Workwear Group Pty Ltd
50 D Browns Rd
Kingston TAS 7050

10 December 2012
Dear Alan,

Re: Proposed Forestry Agreement

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the proposed Forestry Agreement. The proposed Agreement is eliciting contrasting views and as with all legislative changes I hope to be informed of the rationale behind opposing positions before the matter is dealt with in the Legislative Council. I therefore appreciate the time and effort that you have taken to let me know your views.

Yours sincerely

[Description: Description: cid:image001.jpg@01CDC962.F7C34540]

Adriana Taylor MLC
Independent Member for Elwick

From: Alan Firth [mailto:alan@facts.net.au]
Sent: Thursday, 6 December 2012 10:48 PM
To: Adriana.Taylor
Subject: Timber industry concerns

Dear Adriana

I operate my own business which provides Ta Ann Tasmania P/L with my full time service as its paymaster and also the occasional services of another casual employee. Naturally I am concerned about the current difficulties faced by Ta Ann and the impact its possible closure would have on our operation. I also have concerns about what the departure of Ta Ann would have on our State both in the short and long term.

My first direct contact with Ta Ann started when the Huon mill was being constructed. I then obtained part time employment with Ta Ann in October 2010 and switched to my current full time arrangement in July 2011. I recall, as I expect you will, that at the time Ta Ann set up its Tasmanian operations they were widely hailed as a wonderful addition to the local scene which resulted in greater value adding and a lessening of the percentage of wood exported as woodchips. Quite reasonably Ta Ann's operations were set up on the basis of 2 year contracts and a very substantial investment made.

It is my observation that Ta Ann's operations have been consistent and it continues to operate according to its original business plan. What has changed has been the political environment with more power being gained by green groups through the Labour/Green government and the increasing green protests. Since the exit of Gun from native forests and its ongoing demise there has been more emphasis by green groups on Ta Ann's operations with regular illegal disruption of operations whatever the mills, wharves or head office.

I was in the Hobart office when in March 2011 some green protestors invaded the office but fortunately were restricted to the foyer thanks to a recently installed security lock on an inner door. Some protestors scuffled with police and four we arrested. I believe this protest in particular had a very unsettling effect on the few Malaysian staff here. By international standards the illegal action of protestors are seen to be lenient. The only good thing about the recent support
of illegal protest action by a government minister is that it did generate wide spread condemnation and that has been an encouragement to many within Ta Ann that there is general support in the community.
I note, with appreciation, the stand taken in February this year, by MLCs in reaction to Ta Ann's announcement that jobs would be lost due to actions being taken in the market place attacking Ta Ann's sales. I believe the stance that the granting of further reserves would be dependent on sorting out the problem of market attacks helped with the "peace talks". Whilst I don't think the radical green groups will ever be controlled the breakthrough of having green NGOs supporting a way forward must have been influenced by the stance taken.
As paymaster I had extra work in processing redundancies and whilst the reduction in staff was achieved mainly through voluntary redundancies there was real pain both for employees and the company. It was proved true that a company going through such a process tends to lose more or its experienced staff as they have the greater incentive to leave.
In June my wife and I, whilst on a private trip in Asia, were privileged to take a side trip for a two days to Sibu and see Ta Ann's operations there. It was very clear that there was a large amount of Tasmanian supplied veneer stockpiled in processing. Some was stored in the open protected by tarps. I understand that despite the decrease in production here in April there continues to be more veneer held that is operationally desirable. It is clear to me that Ta Ann has been held off making difficult decisions about its future pending resolution of the ongoing talks and has stuck in there despite the many delays.
I understand there may be concerns amongst Legislative Councillors that the current agreement gives too much away to the green interests and is not in the long term interests of the state. I too have some concerns in this area however after some deliberation I believe it is appropriate for the current legislation to be supported and the following points summarise my thinking;
1. If the Tasmanian people collectively think too much has been locked there will be a clear choice, given recent undertakings by the Liberal party, at next election. The danger would be that hostilities would resume and markets will again be affected. If the current government goes full term then there will have been a full year of testing of the new agreement and time for major parties to develop/refine policies relevant to the international market issues. If the Legislative Council takes it on itself to make such a stand now its mandate would be less clearly established, hostilities will continue and the problems will be worse with those attacked the markets being buoyed with having got rid of Ta Ann and likely looking for others to target.

2. It is clear that selling product in the international market is currently a bigger problem than sourcing supply and for the reason's detailed by Ann executives in yesterday's press conference the gaining of green NGO support is key reason for any optimism going forward.
3. The durability provisions to delay locking up some areas depending on the cessation of market attacks are consistent with the stance taken by MLCs in February.
4. The currently elected government, in conjunction with the Federal Government has embarked on a genuine transparent consultation process that has resulted in a negotiated result that provides a way forward. As a house of review MLCs have already had big impact on this process and I believe it is now consistent with its role for the Legislative Council to pass the current legislation.
5. I cannot see how, if Ta Ann has to abandon ship, Forestry Tasmania will stay afloat and it would certainly become more susceptible to green attacks causing greater disruption to the industry were it to be disbanded.
6. Probably my greatest fear is the long term damage to the state resulting from a perceived sovereign risk for potential new investors. If, in the wake of the Guinns and Margiris issues, Ta Ann is to cease operations about a quarter of the way through a 20 year agreement largely due to a changed politics landscape then the prospects of getting any substantial investors to fill the void are in my opinion very bleak for the foreseeable future.
7. It is clear from the willingness of Ta Ann to trial different log sources and diversify its marketing by adding a plywood facility that it is preparing to take further risks to turn around the current difficulties on the basis of th
new agreement.
I trust you will see your way clear to endorse this entrepreneurial spirit.

Yours Sincerely

Alan Firth
Managing Director
Firth Accounting Computing Training Service P/L
alan@facts.net.au
Ph 0409 974 185

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Attachments:

untitled-[1.2].html 14k text/html
image001.jpg 2.1k image/jpeg
From: Greg Joyce [mailto:greg@highco.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 15 November 2012 11:30 AM
To: sid.sidebottom.mp@aph.gov.au
Cc: Broad, Shane
Subject: ACTION NEEDED TODAY! Re Activists attacking TAAAN

Dear Sid & Shane,

As you know, we are a Tasmanian family owned business supporting 10 households and TAANN are a very large customer we can't afford to lose!

WE NEED...Immediate ACTION from you to keep TAANN in Tasmania!

1) Please contact TA-ANN today, PROMISE you will support them to enable them to stay in Tasmania and confirm immediate action to STOP these business murder activists.

2) Immediately propose legislation, similar to terrorist control?, for activists disrupting production equipment etc like they are doing now... which is killing Tasmanian businesses.

For example, we heard today P...T... Exeter have closed down, M... B said he was driven to the edge of a cliff, and thought best to jump before being pushed off...

Said the Greenies have driven the timber industry to death, and he's now considering moving to the mainland! Says there should be a sign at the TAS airport/ferry departure lounges 'Would the last person out... please turn out the lights!'

His biggest client was Ta Ann (70% of his business), and because of what is happening to them he can't afford to keep going. (He was making a b-double load of product regularly for them!!)

Sid & Shane, PLEASE ACT FAST NOW!

Kind Regards,

Greg Joyce
Managing Director | E: greg@highco.com.au
LETTER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill,

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I believe there is a need to rebuild Ta Ann Tasmania’s markets, and to secure the future of the two veneer plants.

Both the State and Federal Governments have committed to support for continued operations, giving an increased level of comfort to the company. So too have the major Environmental Groups.

I believe that the legislation offers support for increased regional economic activity based upon a sustainable timber industry in Tasmania.

We used to have 22 employees 4 years ago and today we have 5.

With the timber industry in such a down turn and all the goings on in our sabotaged markets we need security for our future.

We need a timber resource based industry to have some growth in our stuffed economy.

Regards Dale Kingston.  
Ph# 0428 285685
10 December 2012

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Dear Councillors,

RE: Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill

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Yours Faithfully

David and Luan Berry
Managers
Dear Councillors,

I manage a business that supplies staffing to Ta Ann Tasmania and other processors in the Forest Sector and seek your support. We employ dozens of Tasmanians who would otherwise be out of work due to decline in the forest industry and we look to continue to support local communities and businesses through our staff supply to Ta Ann.

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Sincerely,

Caryl Hogan
Regional Manager Tasmania
11th December 2012

LETTER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill

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Christopher Gray
Manager
11/12/2012

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I operate a Tasmanian business that supplies goods and services to Ta Ann Tasmania and other processors in the Forest Sector seek your support.

Ta Ann Tasmania is committing to an ongoing future in Tasmania operating its Smithton and Huon Mills to produce certified veneer from forests allocated for production under the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement.

This commitment seeks to protect the value of the operation to the regional economy, and importantly the future of their employees as well as our employees in supplying good and services to the company.

The company generates a demand for forest contractors, transport and associated services, including Port and stevedoring, road transport and fuel, insurance and professional services, engineering maintenance and the supply of material handling equipment.

I believe there is a need to rebuild Ta Ann Tasmania’s markets, and to secure the future of the two veneer plants.

Both the State and Federal Governments have committed to support for continued operations, giving an increased level of comfort to the company. So too have the major Environmental Groups.

I believe that the legislation offers support for increased regional economic activity based upon a sustainable timber industry in Tasmania.

Yours faithfully,
Kays Service Station Pty. Ltd.

[Signature]
Lloyd D Kay
Manager/Director
11th December 2012

Subject: Letter to Legislative Council - Ta Ann Tasmania

Dear Councillors,

SFM operates a Tasmanian business that supplies goods and services to Ta Ann Tasmania and other processors in the forestry sector.

Ta Ann Tasmania is committed to an ongoing future in Tasmania operating its Smithton and Huon Mills, producing certified veneer from certified forests allocated for production.

The company generates a demand for forest contractors, transport and associated services including; port and stevedoring, road transport, professional services, engineering maintenance and the supply of material handling equipment.

SFM believe there is a need to rebuild Ta Ann Tasmania’s markets and to secure the future of the two veneer plants.

Ta Ann Tasmania and the value added products it produces is a vital component of a profitable forest industry for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Morgan
Director

David Wise
Director