



Members of the Joint Select Committee
Joint Select Committee on Ethical Conduct
Parliament House. Hobart. TAS 7000

Thursday, 31 July 2008

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Tasmanian community group Still Wild Still Threatened to highlight some of our critical concerns with the ways in which existing mechanisms are currently failing dismally to facilitate an accountable, ethical and transparent government in our state. Still Wild Still Threatened is a Tasmanian community group campaigning for the protection of Tasmania's old growth and high conservation value forests and for the creation of an equitable and environmentally sustainable forestry industry in Tasmania. We would urge the Tasmanian government to immediately take steps to establish an independent investigative body which would address issues of corruption in our state.

A plethora of recent developments in Tasmania clearly demonstrate that our state is completely lacking in mechanisms to ensure good and transparent governance. These include, but are not limited to:

- Allegations of corruption and serious ethical misconduct at the state government level have not been fully investigated.
- A deputy premier found to have lied to Parliament is still in his seat and may be undergoing political rehabilitation.
- Allegations of serious political interference in judicial appointments have yet to be reported to the public.
- The *Pulp Mill Assessment Act 2007* even provides that no review for criminal conduct operates to delay the issues of the Pulp Mill Permit nor any actions authorised by it.

On behalf of Still Wild Still Threatened, I am calling on the Joint Select Committee to establish an independent anti-corruption body which reports to parliament and consists of at least one mainland appointment, and which has access to an independent and guaranteed budget.

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to comment on this issue. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Ula Majewski
On behalf of Still Wild Still Threatened