



**Legislative Council**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**15 March 2013**

---

## **RELEASE OF REPORT IN RELATION TO THE TASMANIAN FORESTS AGREEMENT BILL 2012**

---

The Legislative Council Select Committee inquiring into the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 has found that the State and Commonwealth Governments have remained outside the Tasmanian Forest Agreement process, such that the signatories have had significant influence over a range of Government policy areas affecting the broader Tasmanian community.

The report of the Select Committee was released this morning and includes a range of critical findings in relation to the Bill and the underlying principles associated with the Tasmanian Forest Agreement 2012 (TFA).

Committee Chairman Paul Harriss MLC said that whilst the Committee acknowledges the work undertaken by the signatories and the fact that they had demonstrated a level of good will in relation to the underlying principles of the TFA during the inquiry process, there were a number of concerns that may require further consideration by the Legislative Council, Government and/or the signatories.

Mr Harriss said the Committee was concerned by a number of key issues associated with the Bill and the TFA and had made 84 findings under the following key areas

- The role of the State and Commonwealth Governments;
- The compromises associated with the process;

- The methodology and science associated with the proposed reserve systems;
- Funding;
- The wood supply arrangements;
- The world heritage extension;
- The future role of Forestry Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service;
- The socio-economic assessment work;
- Sovereign Risk;
- The Forest Practices Code;
- The Forest Stewardship Council;
- Carbon credits;
- The Private Forestry Sector; and
- Access Usage.

“The Committee has identified numerous concerns in relation to the key principles underpinning the Bill, including the minimum wood supply arrangements, the lack of proper scientific methodology associated with reserve decisions that will not achieve the best conservation outcomes, the limitations of the socio-economic work completed, the lack of detail in relation to durability and the lack of community consultation”.

Mr Harriss said that given the number of concerns identified by the Committee from the evidence it had received, it vindicated the decision of the Legislative Council to undertake the inquiry and confirmed that it was a worthwhile process for all of the Members who had participated.

The report and a list of some of the key findings is included with this media release for the benefit of journalists who will be attending the media conference at 11.30am this morning.

Further information about the Inquiry including the report, terms of reference, transcripts of hearings and published submissions are available and regularly updated at the following website:

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/Forests.htm>

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Paul Harriss MLC – 0409 977 430**