

Attention Charles Casimaty please could you treat in confidence

Inquiry into Triabunna Woodchip Mill from Tasmanian Oak Grower's.

The Tasmanian Oak Grower's is a group of Landowner's collectively owning approx. 50 thousand hectares of forest in the Central Highlands and Eastern Tiers.

The purpose of our submission is to make it known the effect the Triabunna closure has had on the Tasmanian Oak Grower's. There has been no harvesting on our properties for the last three years due to the forestry downturn, mill closures and lack of demand due to uncertainty in the industry.

Historically, approx. 50 percent of our residue (woodchips) were shipped from Triabunna. The main reason for this was because of cart distances, half of our properties had a cart of between 70 - 150 kilometres to Triabunna, mostly, 90 - 140 kilometres. The cart distances from these same properties to Bell Bay Chipmill is 160 - 200 kilometres.

Log carting is a major part of the cost of product and because of the long distance to market (Bell Bay) and low price it has been unviable to harvest any timber from these forests therefore not creating any economic activity (employment).

The market price has recently recovered slightly but still the returns from the Bell Bay mill is only about \$5.00 per tonne stumpage on a 170 kilometre cart, which to us is unviable.

If Triabunna was open we could achieve a price of approx. \$5 - \$8 on top of the Bell Bay stumpage which is a viable price due to the shorter cart distances.

The Tasmanian Oak Grower's would like to point out that Forestry Tas and Southern Sawmills have been paid a government subsidy to make it viable to send chips to the northern outlet. Private land owner's were not offered anything or consulted at all in regards to this.

We feel it is essential to have an export wood facility in the south east of the state or an alternative market outlet of our residue (biomass, biofuel, biochar) to enable us to start harvesting and creating economic activity.

Yours faithfully

Mark Cornelius

Chairman for Tasmanian Oak Grower's