



Tasmanian
Special
Timbers

Tasmanian Special Timbers Pty. Ltd.

ABN 92 058 645 426

Post Office Box 211
Queenstown, Tasmania, 7467

Head Office 03 6471 2510

Fax 03 6471 2205

Strahan 03 64717190

Email: t.s.t.info@huonpine.com

www.tasmanianspecialtimbers.com.au

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Mr Stuart Wright
Secretary
Legislative Council Select Committee into Tas Forestry Agreement Bill 2012
Legislative Council
Hobart 7000

Email: tfacommittee@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Wright

I would like to make the following submission on behalf of our business to the Legislative Council Members involved in scrutinizing the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 currently before them.

Firstly, I am concerned that the Bill as it stands today is not a true reflection of the Agreement signed by those entrusted with its negotiation and thus the forming of it. Points of the original Agreement were changed at the 11th hour by individuals other than those entrusted, rendering the process flawed and invalid. In fact from the very start this process was rife with misinterpretation, bullying and bribery, with many interests excluded from the process.

It seems ludicrous to me that a Government would consider initiating such negative impact on its largest industry and therefore the State's economy at a time when our State is already being accused of not pulling its weight and all this without a firm commitment from Green Groups that disruptive protest actions will cease...in fact quite the opposite is being voiced by these groups.

I see a wide spread negative flow-on effect from Timber Communities right through our society, in fact we are experiencing this already as we watch families vacating the State to find work elsewhere and all this because an irrational Government desperately wanting to hold on to power at any cost will bow to the Greens demand to shut down (let's face it) the most sustainable industry we have.

From the point of view of this business and the special timbers industry (so important to our Tourism Industry) I see uncertainty with further land lock-ups, finally rendering an old sustainable industry unviable in a short time.

We have watched as our traditional areas for gathering our timber have been slowly taken from us until we are left such a small area that operating at a sustainable level is questioned. I note that 2 more areas significant to the viability of this business (Tasmania's West Coast) are to be reserved.

We need to be aware of the fact that 49% of Tasmania's forest is in reserve and, more significantly 80% of Tasmania's Old Growth is now in reserve.

I see the role that the Forest Industry has played in fire prevention and control reduced to a perilously dangerous level if this Bill passes un-amended.

Finally, I would like to remind all that as a result of Gunns' vacation the Industry was approximately halved, greatly lessening the impact of the Industry on the forest available to it...why then would we take away that advantage by reserving vast areas of forest and playing into the hands of a hungry minority that will use this very tool to continue their insatiable quest.

I applaud you the Legislative Council for the responsible action you have taken in this stressful situation thus far and trust that no decisions will be made lightly.

Yours Sincerely

Bern Bradshaw

For and on behalf of
Tasmanian Special Timbers