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11th August 2014

Charles Casimaty
Secretary
House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

By Email

Re: Submission in regards to Inquiry into the Triabunna Woodchip Mill

Dear Charles,

I would like to thank the Committee for inviting me to make a submission to the "Public Hearings in relation to the Inquiry into the Triabunna Woodchip Mill and Future Development Opportunities for the Triabunna region".

By way of background SFM is a Tasmanian-owned company which has been operating since 2001 providing forest management, forest logistics and consulting services to private landowners, corporate entities and government organisations. SFM has offices in Burnie, Launceston, Hobart, Mt Gambier and Brisbane. SFM is one of a limited number of forestry companies certified under both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) for forest management. SFM prides itself on independence, innovation and integrity.

On the 16th November 2011 the owners of the Triabunna Woodchip Mill advertised in local newspapers calling for "Expressions of Interest to operate the Triabunna Woodchip Mill" (See attachment A1). The Expression of Interest was for the lease and operation of the facility for an initial period of 5 years in a way which was consistent with the aims of the Tasmanian Forest Inter Governmental Agreement – 7th August 2011. Aside from requiring the applicants to operate the facility consistent with all legislative requirements and OH&S standards no other details were given at the time in regards to operational or financial parameters.

On the 2nd December 2011 SFM and Les Walkden Enterprises jointly responded to the Expression of Interest to operate the Triabunna Woodchip Mill. The letter is attached (see Attachment A2)



No acknowledgement of receipt of the letter was received.

In February 2012, David Wise, my business partner and Director of SFM contacted Alec Marr, General Manager of Triabunna Investments, via a phone call to enquire as to the progress of the Expression of Interest. David was told that Triabunna Investments was going through a process and they were going to send out documentation in due course.

On the 29th February 2012, David sent a text message enquiring into further documentation. The text message dialogue is attached (See Attachment A3) which indicates there was documentation sent out to a short listed group of applicants, discussions were taking place with those applicants and that the SFM/LWE application was not shortlisted. I have not, nor know anyone who has, seen the abovementioned documentation.

The Triabunna Woodchip facility was a fundamental piece of infrastructure in providing the private forest sector in southern Tasmania with an outlet for both native forest residues and plantation fibre. The subsequent period since the closure of Triabunna highlights the critical need for a woodchip export solution in the south of the state as private forest harvesting has all but ceased denying landowners an important source of secondary income from their native or plantation estate, has devalued land prices and has restricted supply of sawlog and veneer from private operations.

If you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Morgan
Managing Director

