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29<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Mr Guy Barnett  
Chairman,  
Triabunna Committee of Inquiry  
Parliament House  
**HOBART. Tasmania 7000**

email: [guy.barnett@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:guy.barnett@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Guy

#### **IMPORTANCE OF TRIABUNNA PORT**

Thank you for having me before the hearing last Tuesday. I found it interesting and from it I have started to look at a bigger picture than I had been looking at.

I have been telling everyone for years what a great job TPFH/APPM/Gunns have done on the East Coast cleaning up all the low grade trees; getting what sawlogs they could and selling the waste product thereby creating jobs and re-sowing/planting trees to grow for the future.

We have plantations growing on the East Coast which were planted for supply to a pulp mill or exported as woodchip. Now we do not have, or it does not look like we will have, a pulp mill.

We need to have a cost efficient means to handle the processing of the plantations and the next crop of forests that is already growing. We need to do thinning of some of the re-growth forests so they can grow to their sawlog potential. The most cost efficient way to process logs to woodchips and export is to have chipper and storage for chips close to port as the Triabunna mill was set up. Haulage distance from forest to mill is the next cost factor.

The Triabunna mill is central and closest port for the whole of the East Coast. The old poor forest supported the Triabunna mill exporting woodchips for 40 years. The next crop is ready to start the next 40 years of export creating primary jobs that we desperately need.

On top of this there is product from the southern forests. It seems no one wants a pile of woodchips on the Hobart waterfront so Triabunna is the only other avenue for this product as carting forest products from South to the North of the State to export is cost prohibitive.

For the long term good of southern Tasmania it is imperative that the Triabunna port storage area plus area to chip product is maintained.

The story that the wharf is in total disrepair is another myth Graeme Wood is spreading and even if it was in need of replacing, it is not the issue. It is the importance of having the water depth to be able to berth larger ships.

The argument that we cannot have industry and tourism is another myth. It happens in most cities around the world. A good example is in Melbourne and Geelong; just to name two.

Our government must act and act quickly to acquire the Triabunna mill site complete and keep the area as industrial and save all future arguments for the good of our State's future. It is a no-brainer!

Yours sincerely



Graeme J Elphinstone  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR.**