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From: edward tuleja <edtuleja@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2013 2:10 PM
To: tfacommittee
Subject: IGA submission - Upper Meander Catchment Landcare Group

To: Members of the Legislative Council 18/1/13

From: Upper Meander Catchment Landcare Group

Re: Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012

Our organisation does not support the IGA and urges the Legislative council to reject the bill. Our Landcare Group (a founding member of ET) was in the Environment Tasmania reference group for 12 months but resigned from the group when it became obvious that due process was not being followed by ET. We resigned with great reluctance but as ET was not following its' constitution, we had no other option. Our Group Leader was then the Secretary of ET. At the time of our resignation, the chair and three other board members resigned.

Background to the IGA:

The IGA was instigated by Michael O'Connor from the mainland branch of the CFMEU, who approached The Wilderness Society (mainland). These two organisations picked the groups which were to be involved in IGA process. Numerous Tasmanian organisations were excluded from consideration.

Reserves in timber production zones:

Members of the IGA selected these areas on a coupe by coupe basis. Whole catchment management, land use capability, impacts on threatened and rare species, wildlife corridors, and water use and hydrology, as well as social factors, were not considered. For example, in our local environment there are areas of high conservation that have been placed in the timber production zone and areas of low conservation value placed in the reserved zone. We feel that there should be a biological/ecological audit performed on the whole geographical area covered by any future agreement, and that it should be a ground-based audit, not one generated from a desktop far from the site.

Consultation:

There must be broad public consultation for Tasmanians to feel that the IGA is a valid and representative process. This has not occurred. As you in the Legislative Council would be aware, many organisations on all sides of the argument have been ignored.

Conclusion:

The IGA has been fatally flawed from its' inception and will fail utterly to bring peace in the forest. In fact, it has again intensified the polarisation within the community. We can all agree that there is an urgent need for Tasmanians to resolve these decades' long entrenched animosities in the forest sector but it must involve the entire community for it to be acceptable to the broad public.

We implore the Legislative Council to reject this legislation and commence a process which will involve the whole community, not just a hand-picked few organisations.

Respectfully,

Kevin Knowles, Group Leader, Upper Meander Catchment Landcare Group

Ed Tuleja, Secretary

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