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The Legislative Council Inquiry into the IGA.

To the Chairman.

Submission.

This brief submission is commentary on some effects of a deal such as that put forward by the House of Assembly as a solution towards "Peace in the Forest".

Many aspects of the deal have downside effects as well as alleged upside for Tasmania.

1. Forestry Tasmania appears to be allocated reduced forests to provide the industry with sawlog and veneer billets. An issue that has been continually thrown in the face of this valued organisation is that it is "over-cutting" the forests. How does locking up 500,000 hectares prevent over-cutting. Further crucifying of Forestry Tasmania can only ensue if they are not allocated sufficient working forests. The forests surrendered by Gunns should have been allocated to Forestry Tasmania with a reasonable quota that would ensure there is no over-cutting of forests. It seems well known that trees as small as 30 centimetres are being provided to sawmills and to Ta Ann which indicates there is a shortage of big trees. Growing sufficient forests for future provision of resource should be a priority.

2. Market Interference. The inertia by Government towards the interference of legal markets by activists and saboteurs is intolerable. How any Government or politician can turn a blind eye to this behaviour is an insult to the intelligence of the voting and taxpaying public of Tasmania.

The effects of this are that Tasmania is most likely only open to investment if the "saboteurs" approve of the investment - NOT if the Government or the people approve of the investments. How can people sit in parliament and put up with this type of behaviour. It undermines the Democracy of Tasmania. It demonstrates an unbelievable ineptness on the part of our Government and shows that the Green Seats are all that matters and the State of Tasmania is Incidental.

3. The above behaviour is encouraged and supported by the Federal Parliament as well in that unless Tasmania toes the line it will not be paid money to give our forests away and close down our industries. Where in our democracy does this type of interference have a role. Trading off forever our future resources for a paltry one off payment insults all of us. Minister Burke is behaving in an unconscionable manner in threatening Tasmania - behaviour that I have not seen before.

4 Are Tasmanians so insignificant, so secondary in status that every one is bullying and telling us what we are able to do and to suffer such interference that businesses and townships and future certainty is to be surrendered at the behest of outsiders and standover tactics.

5 Do the Legislative Councillors understand how angry people are out in the proletariat. It is not a matter of Forestry it is the confiscation and the directives that are being given with respect of our future stability in regional towns, schools, jobs, services all of which are at risk because we are second class citizens in our own land. No Forestry, No Farms, No alternate Forest Uses, No Bio-Mas, No Ethanol, No Mining and goodness knows what else.

6. Do people understand what is happening?

7. I am not advocating that the forests cut should not be reduced but sufficient forest must remain to sustain an industry.

8. This is not the end of the assault on Tasmania, It is likely to be just the first. In the past we have had attacks on irrigation expansion, Forestry, Mining and Power from Forests with excluding bio-mass from carbon credits.

9, Of course the deal has been compiled by "insiders" and is riddled with conflicts of interest but "who cares". Ethics is now a dirty word.

Conclusion. The Forest Deal is an insult and abuse of Tasmania and of Tasmanians.

Yours faithfully

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