

To.  
Stuart Wright  
Secretary Legislative Council Committees.  
Tasmanian Forests Agreement 2012  
Parliament of Tasmania

31/12/2012

From  
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Submission on Tasmanian Forest Agreement 2012-12-31

Dear Committee members, I am writing to give my evidence and opinion on the Tasmanian Forests Agreement 2012.

It is my observation that over the last 40 years that Tasmania's forests have been plundered in a totally unsustainable way. The industry has been focused on supplying woodchips at the expense of good forest practices.

My visual evidence on the disk can be presented to the committee along with my experience over the last 9 years as a community based researcher into forestry practices.

My contention is that our forest industry needs to be totally restructured along a close to nature basis; to supply the long term needs of industry and craftspeople.

The forest practices in the past 40 years have damaged much of the future sawlogs in our eucalypt and minor species rainforests.

It is time that our industry is restructured and our forests managed for the long term good of all users.

Our minor species supplies need to be properly managed so that there is a future supply of timbers for craftspeople and boat builders.

Our eucalypt forests need to be managed to supply high quality timber and veneers, not just low quality veneer and woodchip as has been the case for so long now.

We have foolishly sold off our profit making pine resources for short term debt repayment, this move just shows how short sighted and low value commodity focused the industry has become.

I would be happy to show slideshows of the many particular coupes that I have surveyed in the last 9 years and also to give verbal evidence to the committee.

The way I see it, it is pointless to just put more land into reserves unless the forest practices are changed. Our forests can be managed far better than they are now, more along the lines of the Swiss or Slovenian models where the value of forests is truly taken into account.

If more reserves are created and forest practices and models are not changed it will mean that our forest practices will only become more destructive. We already have the situation where we have hundreds of thousands of hectares of plantations in Tasmania of the wrong species of trees. It is now apparent that E.Nitens are not the preferred species for paper makers and as the current plantations are not being managed for sawlogs these trees are virtually useless.

It is time to change, time to move into a truly sustainable and long term management of our forests.

Yours Sincerely  
Peter Godfrey



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