

**Representation to Legislative Council Select Committee, also request for personal verbal presentation.**

My submission is against locking up any more forest. Tasmania has approximately 50% of our land mass reserved from logging and forestry operations, but on top of that there are large areas of streamside and other reserves – no country on earth has such large reserves.

The percentage of commercial private forests locked up is such higher. A viable woodchip industry is essential to the efficiency of commercial private forestry in this state. To have a viable woodchip industry requires a minimum sustainable volume of wood.

If around 500,000 extra hectares is put into more reserves – available wood volumes will be below minimum profitable volumes necessary for a viable woodchip industry.

The Salamanca Agreement all those years ago was to sort out all the areas to be reserved and areas for commercial forest operations but as usual the extreme Greens movement has to have more reserves. I am alarmed at the process adopted by the Government and the groups involved to seek agreement on locking up another 500,000 hectares approximately of reserve.

People in these groups are not representative of the majority of Tasmanian people, they were not elected to represent us, they appear to be untrained in forestry matters, they are obviously apart of extreme pressure groups with only one agenda – to shut down all native forest both public and private logging – they at no stage have taken any notice of highly qualified forest trained experts from Forestry Tasmania and yet – the Government sits back and lets these groups make the rules for the future of forestry in Tasmania and to a large extent the prosperity and wellbeing of Tasmanians.

None of the myriad of other stake holders had had any say or even been asked.

Private forest owners will large forest resources surely should be around the table – Local Government representing all the business operators that used to be deeply involved in forestry – local garages – fuel outlets – tyre companies – repair workshops – new vehicle sales people – forest contactors – forest surveyors - assessors – forest practice people – local stores – schools – doctors – the list goes on and on – all these people have been ignored.

Thank god for the legislative Council, at least now other people have a chance to have a say and hopefully be listened to – unlike extreme Green pressure groups with their unbalanced , one sided only agendas.

I have been involved in commercial forestry since the early 1960's – began selective logging for saw log only and then in 1972 when the wood chip industry began we commenced selective logging in our mixed forests mainly eucalypt delegatensis .

For the 1<sup>st</sup> 170 years approximately early settlers selected the best trees for saw log only and left the worst – not the best outcome for future forests standards. The woodchip industry let us remove not only the heads of trees but importantly old trees, fire damaged, poor shaped and also thin out young trees and retain the best young trees to grow on. The result is now a magnificent stand of mostly saw logs – this area is on the west side of the Lake Highway just south of Steppes at Bakers Tier for all to see. We have selectively harvested three crops of saw logs off the same land and the 4<sup>th</sup> crop is ready to harvest now – over only 50 years with no need for burning or reseeded at all.

The Greens want to stop even this! These extreme pressure groups are also locking up private forestry around the state and is being carried out at this very moment in the Central Highlands. Prime forest land has been purchased to be sub-divided into private “lifestyle” blocks – but each block will have a caveat and covenant stopping logging activities – the result is large areas of private forest taken out of production. It has been openly said – “the money from these blocks will allow the purchase of more timber blocks into the future”.

Biodiversity offsets are another means to restrict land use activities that involves any native vegetation. If clearing is requested a similar sized block will have to be purchased and be “locked up” in perpetuity and if rare and endangered is present then 5 times the original area will have to be purchased elsewhere and “locked up” in perpetuity.

There is also a “Reed Scheme” in operation based on carbon credits whereby forest owners lock up their forest for 25 years. There is already around 20,000 to 25,000 hectares of some of the best private forest areas in the state locked up in this scheme.

The end result of all these schemes is to remove native forest harvesting from Tasmania and definitely to stop any future hope of establishing a woodchip or pulp mill in this state.

There are forest owners with 12 to 1,500 hectares of eucalypt plantations and no hope of any future sales – it is now impossible to sell any native timber and completely unviable. There are hundreds of thousands of hectares of privately owned native forests that used to employ thousands of people – now are doomed to being burnt sooner or later.

Some private forest owners were earning around 1 million dollars per year – now earning nothing!

Is it any wonder that GST revenue in Tasmania has reduced so much and unemployment is rising rapidly with people leaving the state in droves especially small rural towns.

Our children's futures are being destroyed by extreme Green activists.

Richard Bowden

“Cluny”

BOTHWELL TAS 7030

Ph 03 62595542