

Ilise Bourke

From: Dennis Camplin <dcam13@internode.on.net>
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To: tfacommittee
Subject: My Submission on the Forest Industry

Dennis Camplin
41 Ravenswood Rd
Ravenswood
Tas 7250

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I am Dennis Camplin. I worked for 25 years in the timber drying and downstream processing of mostly hardwood timbers. I hold a CSIRO certificate in Timber drying.

I urge you to stop looking at the leaves of Tasmania's Forests and look at the log under the leaves.

I also urge that you take time to read my submission not like previous submissions I have sent for comment, getting email notification back from many of you ie Paul Harriss "Deleted not Read". Does this mean you do not really represent all people but only those with vested interests.

Don't be fooled by people telling you what they think you would like to hear, do your own research there are two sides to every story and a lot you don't know.

The Liberals Forest Policy is revealed in the Sunday Examiner, Sunday 23rd of December 2012 by the Liberals Forestry Spokesman Peter Gutwein (another who does not reply to emails) said "Over the next 20 years simply rebuilding the industry to previous levels will provide more than \$28 billion to our economy". What he is saying is the Liberals want the forest industry to return to exporting 5,200,000 tonnes woodchips per annum and the forests to also produce 400,000 cubic metres of hardwood sawlogs.

I could go through step by step the waste that occurred in this industry in my time and still goes on today which I suggest is partly to blame for the situation Tasmanian Forest Industries are in.

It would be very nice of those in the Forestry industry would stick up their hand and say "We are partly to **blame** for the crisis the Industry is in."

I also participated in research into drying of Old growth, Regrowth and Plantation grown hardwood timbers from which it was found regrowth Tasmanian hardwood eucalypt sawlogs needed a minimum rotation period of 80 years for them to develop good structural characteristics and quality before they became suitable for milling and processing. Very little success was had with drying immature plantation species into any suitable product.

Blame begins at the log landing.

Sawlog species not segregated, different species dry at different rates.

Sawlogs debarked at log landings, allowing drying degrade to start immediately.

Sawlog butts not greased or waxed so as to prevent moisture loss, lack of grease/wax hastens drying degrade.

The debarked sawlogs are put on the back of a truck which may attain speeds of 100 kph this 100 kph airspeed over the logs causes rapid moisture loss and further drying degrade.

At the sawmill most logs are unloaded not in their species type but bundled together.

Most log yards do not have water sprays to keep moisture content in the logs, hot sun, fast breezes quickly remove

moisture from the logs, more drying degrade.

Canadian Twin breaking down saws remove $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" of material in sawdust every cut, thin curf breaking down bandsaws can remove as little of $\frac{3}{8}$ " of material in sawdust every cut. No mill should use Canadian twin breaking down saws.

Most sawmills do not have their drying yards surveyed to obtain optimum air drying conditions. There are some hardwoods that should not be milled or racked on hot windy days.

In racking of timber rack stick alignment and thickness of rack sticks is extremely important, but in many yards this is of no consequence.

Many drying yards do not use rack covers on top of the racks or apply timber grease or wax to the ends of boards. Consequently by the time a rack of timber is ready for Reconditioning and Kiln drying all the drying degrade that is going to occur has occurred, the only thing that has the potential to be recovered is collapse which might be removed by reconditioning.

It has been proven that by not covering the top row of timber racks with a rack cover up to five rows of boards in the rack can become weathered and degraded. These boards may have been the highest grade boards when racked but now are the lowest grade with a huge loss in dollar amounts to the owner.

The list can go on through kiln drying and product production but I hope you get the message that due to poor management practices more sawlogs have been felled over many years than should have been necessary.

Since the advent of clear fell forest operations in 1971

What is the total land area that has been clear felled?

Since 1971 how many cubic metres of logs which had material suitable for milling were wood chipped or burnt? **This practice can be substantiated by photographic and video footage?**

Since 1971 what has been the dollar value into research into growing saw logs?

Since 1971 what has been the dollar value into research into growing chip logs?

How much of this clear felled land area has been replanted in forests to produce sawlogs. Can you tell me the area?

How much of this clear felled land area has been replanted in forests that have been solely planted for wood chip.

Can you tell me the area?

Have you ever flown in from Sydney into Launceston? I have, Why is the area from Barnbugle to the back of Mt Arthur, Mt Barrow to the back of Mt Nicholas and Tower hill for as far as the eye can see planted in eucalyptus nitens plantations, trees not native to Tasmania? In this vast area there is very little native species. I guess it does not worry you that Tasmania's natural bio-diversity no longer exists in these plantations?

How much of Tasmanian Forests are in reserves that are uneconomical to log, ie horizontal and scrub? Can you tell me the area?

Why has the majority of Tasmania's hardwood sawlog supply contracted to a small area at the south of the State?

This contraction of sawlog resource to the South of the State was going on pre 1992, 20 years ago, Why is that.

In the 1980's there were over 350 sawmills in Tasmania supporting communities, now there is less than 50, why is that?

Could it have something to do with overcutting forests for saw logs at that time or are the conservation movement solely to blame.

Do you support a return to 5,200,000. tonnes of export woodchips per annum? Previously from these operations how much wood has been left to be burnt, ie limb wood, leaves which could have been put to good use then. (ethanol, producer gas, mulch).

Do you know the three successive and overlapping stages in the combustion of wood?

Do you know the composition of chimney exhaust gases from a wood fired boiler.

Do you know the composition of chimney exhaust gases from a coal fired gas producer boiler.

Do you know the ratio amount difference between burning wet and dry wood.

Do you know there was a local company trying to sell "Ventec" wood gasifiers to industry to solve the wood waste problem. They did not sell one, why?

How did the North Pacific Sea Star come to Tasmania? Did the conservation movement bring them? What effect has the crown of thorn starfish had on our ocean habitat? Who is to blame.

Why did the Wood Chip mill on the Huon River close, was it a commercial decision to close it? Yet there is uproar over the commercial decision to sell Triabunna chip mill?

Why did Western Australia shut down most of its Forest Industry and only has 600,000 hectares available for timber production?

Why did Northern N.S.W. greatly reduce its production forest area?

Why is some land areas around Cressy high in salinity?

Where is the Huon pine resource that was once floated down the Huon River, I suppose the Conservation movement destroyed that to?

Have you read or studied the Field Guide "Forest Trees of Tasmania" by Forest Resources and reprinted by Boral Timber? How much of that Forest Diversity still remains today?

Do you consider that every species of tree, Hardwood or Minor species endemic to Tasmania should survive, managed in natural reserves? Does every species named in "Forest Trees of Tasmania" still survive in a natural habitat?

What do you know about the South Esk Pine? Where is it located? Should some of this species have protection forever? If you don't know find out.

What do you know about eucalyptus perriniana? Where is it located? Should some of this species be protected in natural reservations forever?

What do you know about eucalyptus robertsonii? Where is it located? Should some of this species be protected in natural reservations forever?

What do you know about eucalyptus sieberi? This timber used to be an industry in itself providing hydro poles and cross arms throughout Tasmania, why did this industry cease, it certainly wasn't because of the conservation movement. Where is this species located? Should some of this species type be protected in natural reservations?

These are just a few of Tasmania's rarer forest species.

Do you think Tasmania's tallest largest trees should remain or should they be harvested.

What is your opinion of Evercreech once Tasmania's largest, modern employment rich newest dairy farm being purchased by a timber company and put under nitens plantations, what about the long term job losses that followed? This was a commercial decision which had nothing to do with Conservation groups.

Have you ever read the Booklet The Tasmanian Forest Industries produced by the Tasmanian Timber Promotion Board?

Have you ever read the booklet 10 Questions produced by the National Association of Forests?

Have you read the preface and summary of the E.I.S. on Tasmanian Woodchip Exports beyond 1988?

Have you ever read the CFMEU's Forest Products Division Environmental and Sustainable Development Policy?

Did you ever read the article in the Launceston Examiner Thursday June 25 - 1992 as to the reasons why Tasmanian Board Mills, one of Tasmania's largest timber processors at that time was closing down its Northern Tasmanian operations and concentrating its business in Southern Tasmania with a loss of 120 jobs? What was the explanation given by the General Manager. Take note of the reasons given.

To quote

"Tasmania's eucalypt millers have known for years that they would have to live with":

"Historic failure to regenerate forests".

"Overcutting in the post war housing boom".

"A consequent shortage of good mature timber (plantations are not likely to provide many sawlogs for a while yet)".

"Competition from cheap radiata pine".

"A prime reason for the move was the scarcity of suitable eucalypt logs from the North and North East of the State"

"More sawmills in the North than the South, but more top grade timber in the South".

It was obvious to those in the eucalypt hardwood milling prior to 1992 that there was going to be a crisis in the

Industry. What has been done since then to ensure a sustainable Timber Industry, absolutely nothing, that's the major reason why there is this conservation crisis today.

Why were Parks and Wildlife given specific directives not to make comment about Forestry Tasmania and the Timber Industry/

Can you answer my questions honestly because not one politician, Liberal, Labor or Greens can. I don't think Forestry Tasmania could either as some of their past practices were dubious and not done for the benefit of Tasmanians but for greed.

All you get is fanciful fuzzy wuzzy mother hood statements which have no meaning. Like "We will Grow the Forest Industry" There is no substance in this statement, it means nothing other than if it is said enough times people tend to believe it, there is no detail on viability or accurate costings or what is the likely return to Investors. Can the new industry compete with similar overseas industries without subsidy? Carter Holt Harvey's plant at Bell Bay was an attempt to "Grow" the industry, It closed due to commercial decisions not because of the Conservation Movement. Any attempt to "Grow" the Timber industry has to be done with a sound commercial footing, not one that regularly relies on the public purse like the road transport of logs. *"The Transport of Log Study, Transport Policy Unit, report No. 4, Hobart, July 1981. Stated, " fuel taxes, road tolls, and other charges collected from log trucks cover only between 21% to 30% of the road costs they generated " .*

If the Legislative Council has no long term solutions for the industry then what you say is just another motherhood statement.

Mostly the hardwood sawlog industry has withdrawn to a small area in the South of the State because of past overcutting yet you, the Liberals, Give it Back blame the Greens and the conservation movement.

If you support the export 5,200,000. tonnes of wood chip a year and 400,000 cubic metres of hardwood sawlog then the hardwood sawmilling industry will not exist in another 30 years.

Will you have the intestinal courage to put your views in a time capsule to be opened in 30 years time. stand up and say "I caused that".

The hardwood sawlog timber Industry has to be given breathing time, (a minimum of 80 year rotations) to take effect. If that means pain now then that is what needs to happen. Saw log tree farmers should be paid a premium each year to grow and manage sawlogs as is the practice in some European countries where the rotation is 100 years.

Do you have any suitable sustainable policies or substance that will ensure there will be a hardwood sawmilling industry for the foreseeable future or are you the mouthpiece for the Liberal Party who are anti conservation of any type of any kind.

Yours Sincerely

Dennis Camplin.