

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE TASMANIA FORESTS AGREEMENT

We wish to suggest a procedure, which may overcome some of the failings of the Round Table process and the proposed Advisory Committee. There are several important issues, which received scant attention; therefore it would be wise to create a holding position to allow for a closer examination.

Without further legislation, the area (\pm 500 000 ha) can have its State Forest status revoked in which case the area in question becomes Crown Land creating a holding situation to allow time for these important issues to be fully evaluated.

- The Federal Government's study of socio-economic values.
- The importance of the area for recreational, community and tourism needs. Current non-timber uses must be allowed to continue and the opportunity for further tourism projects must be provided.
- There is a need to address the fact that there is a large renewable resource of wood available for wealth creation and employment. Should some new wood fibre-based industry arise, perhaps not for 10-15 years, it would be foolish not to have provided for such a possibility.
- Resource must also be adequately set aside not only for the existing industries, but for expansion of these industries.
- The importance of the mineral resource of the area must be identified and mapped so that future mining is not locked out on areas of identified importance.
- Debate over the carbon issue, whether it is preferable to manage these forests, or to leave them alone, needs consideration.
- A study of the conservation values of the proposed reserves, particularly how these would enhance the current reserve system of Tasmania.

- The information from these investigations, placed alongside “The Agreement” would then provide an overlay mosaic of preferred uses for defined areas.

The whole exercise is a planning one and a small unit of two or three could be established, perhaps in Premier and Cabinet to gather and put together all the information.

This whole process does not require new legislation.



John Quick
Chief Commissioner for Forest, 1980-86



Andy Skuja
Chief Commissioner for Forests, 1986-91



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16th January 2013.

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