

Ilise Bourke

From: Rob Blakers <rblakers@ozemail.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2013 12:14 PM
To: tfacommittee
Subject: Submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee regarding the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012.

Submission to the Legislative Council, January 2013

The Secretary,

Legislative Council Select Committee on the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012,

Parliament of Tasmania,

Hobart, Tasmania. 7004.

Dear Secretary,

I write to urge the Legislative Council to pass the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 without amendment.

I have been involved in efforts to conserve Tasmanian forests for over 30 years. As a landscape and wilderness photographer I have repeatedly traversed the land in question. It is likely that I have more extensive first hand knowledge of the areas proposed for reservation than any other individual.

The Agreement arrived at by the Signatories is a rational outcome, a compromise whereby the best of the forest areas with high conservation value are allocated for reservation and the areas most suitable for wood production are zoned for commercial exploitation. The fact that the main players from both sides of the 40+ year-old conflict over Tasmania's forest have reached this Agreement should in itself be sufficient assurance that this is the best outcome possible.

Whilst this Agreement is not perfect, it is decidedly the best that can be achieved in the current era and in the current circumstances. Any significant modification to the Agreement will bring about its collapse, ensuring the worst possible outcomes for industry, the environment and the Tasmanian community. There is no viable Plan B.

This Agreement offers Tasmania the best way forward.

Sincerely,

Rob Blakers

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