

SECOND READING SPEECH

THE HON BRYAN GREEN, MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND RESOURCES

FOREST MANAGEMENT (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2013

Mr Speaker,

I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

The consequential amendment brought about by the *Forest Management Bill 2013* show the extent of the integration of the forest industry within Tasmania across a range of activities.

Mr Speaker, this Bill is relatively straight forward in many respects. It will update a number of Acts and other legislation to ensure that those laws reflect the change from the *Forestry Act 1920* to the new legislation, to be known as the *Forest Management Act 2013*. It will also ensure that the change from “State forest” to “permanent timber production zone

land” is also reflected in relevant legislation where the term “State forest” is used.

It will also ensure that other legislation that references the Forestry corporation is amended to reflect the continuation of the Forestry corporation by the *Forest Management Bill 2013*.

Essentially, this Bill is concerned with ensuring that the changes brought about by the *Forest Management Bill 2013*, in transitioning the Forestry corporation or Forestry Tasmania, does not disrupt the involvement or obligation of Forestry Tasmania in respect of the operation of the legislation contained within this consequential amendments Bill.

Indeed, where there are continuing requirements, obligations or the involvement of Forestry Tasmania in legislative processes or responsibilities, these will continue.

For example, in the mining sector this Bill amends the *Mineral Resources Development (Fossicking Areas) Order 1996*. Now, even though this Bill amends the terms “State forest” to mean “permanent timber production zone land” in that Order, it does

not change the fact that those areas in that Order will be available for fossicking.

Mr Speaker, this Bill is not seeking to revoke any of the obligations or requirements on Forestry Tasmania under the legislation being amended by this Bill. It does, however, repeal some now redundant provisions reflecting the removal of certain terms through the *Forest Management Bill 2013*.

For example, amendments are to be made to the *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zones) Act 1993*.

Section 7 of that Act provides an exemption for any Crown land less than 500 hectares from the requirement that, if that land is within a strategic prospectivity zone, it cannot be sold or have its status as Crown land changed, unless those decisions are approved by both Houses of Parliament.

The consequential amendments Bill removes that exemption for Crown land where there is a minor boundary adjustment under the *Forestry Act 1920*.

That provision is no longer necessary given that the *Forest Management Bill 2013* will not provide a

legislative capacity to provide for minor boundary adjustments to permanent timber production zone land.

In addition, the exemption from land not being subject to section 7 of the *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zones) Act 1993* where a recommendation has been made by the Tasmanian Planning Commission under sections 15, 17 or 17A of the *Forestry Act 1920*, is also to be removed.

This is because under the *Forest Management Bill 2013*, in respect of Crown Land, the power to revoke land as permanent timber production zone land will rest solely with Parliament, and that there will no longer be a register of permanent timber production zone land.

Retaining these exemptions from section 7 of the *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zones) Act 1993* is not consistent with the changes to management of Crown land as permanent timber production zone land being introduced by the *Forest Management Bill 2013*. Repealing them removes those inconsistencies.

There are also amendments to the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. These amendments remove requirements for the development of management plans under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* in relation to forest reserves. These provisions are now no longer necessary as forest reserves as a land classification system is not to be continued under the *Forest Management Bill 2013*. Therefore, retaining these provisions is no longer appropriate.

However, the *Forest Management Bill 2013* establishes provisions that preserve the current management plans under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. This will ensure that existing management plans continue while a new world heritage plan for Tasmania is developed.

Mr Speaker, as I stated at the outset, the intent of this Bill is relatively straight forward. The clear intent is to ensure that, where necessary, other legislation is updated to reflect the changes being brought about by the *Forest Management Bill 2013* and to ensure that, where appropriate, the responsibilities, requirements and obligations on Forestry Tasmania

under the legislation covered by the Bill are continued.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.