



Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

4 May 2011

THE TASMANIAN FORESTS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION GROUP 'REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN' TO COME UNDER SCRUTINY

The Report of Chairman Professor Jonathan West, as part of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement Independent Verification Group, is to come under scrutiny by a Legislative Council Committee Inquiry.

Independent Member for Nelson, Jim Wilkinson MLC, who will chair the inquiry, said today the Government Administration Committee would examine the key finding of the Report of the Chairman that found *'Tasmania's native forests (not including plantations) have been and continue to be harvested substantially above long-term sustainable yield, in respect of the key product segments to which they provide resources'*.

'The Chairman's report raises serious questions in relation to the forest certification standards associated with public native forest harvesting in Tasmania given Professor West's finding about sustainable yields'.

Mr Wilkinson said that given the implications of Professor West's findings, an examination of his findings is appropriate at this time to better inform the Tasmanian community.

Mr Wilkinson said 'This inquiry is an opportunity for Professor West to clarify his findings in relation to Tasmania's native forest forest certification standards for the public record.'

ends

Media Note: Inquiry Terms of Reference are attached.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Jim Wilkinson MLC on 0419 349 251



2012

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Government Administration Committee “A”

Inquiry into the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement Independent Verification Group ‘Report of the Chairman’

Terms of Reference

In accordance with Sessional Order 4 (13) Government Administration Committee A has this day resolved to initiate an inquiry on the following Terms of Reference:

- To inquire into and report upon key finding 1 of the ‘Report of the Chairman’ Mr Jonathon West, as part of the work of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement Independent Verification Group, which found ‘Tasmania’s native forest (not including plantations) have been and continue to be harvested substantially above long-term sustainable yield, in respect of the key product segments to which they provide resources’.

DATE: 1 May 2012

**HON. RUTH FORREST MLC
COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**HON. JIM WILKINSON MLC
INQUIRY CHAIR**