

Ilise Bourke

From: Dennis Camplin <dcam13@internode.on.net>
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To: tfacommittee
Subject: Further to my earlier Submission

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Please view the 3 jpegs copied from the Tasmanian Year Books 1967, 1977, 1981 which clearly shows the decline in the number of Tasmanian Sawmills. In later Tasmanian Year Books the the reference of the number of sawmills is not included. Today there is only about 50 sawmills left in Tasmania. The reduction of sawmills is directly corrolated to the reduction of available sawlog supply and the increase in woodchipping.

What has been the impact on regional communities with the loss of these sawmills?

The last image is from the Launceston Examiner showing the fire at Montumana. Look at all the rubbish left behind from a typical wood chipping operation. If you follow the Tour of France you see forest areas that are being harvested, what you don't see is waste left behind to fuel a fire like in Tasmania.

Regards

Dennis Camplin

Sawmill decline 1967.jpg

Employment

The next table shows the number of sawmills and the number of persons employed:

Number of Sawmills and Persons Employed (a)

Particulars	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Number of Sawmills	326	327	322	305
Average Number Employed During Year—				
Males	2,661	2,548	2,560	2,701
Females	53	53	37	53
Persons	2,714	2,601	2,597	2,754

(a) In mills; excludes those engaged on logging operations.

Production of Wood Pulp and Paper

Details of paper and newsprint production are not available for publication but wood pulp figures are an indicator of activity.

Wood pulp is the basic material in the production of paper, newsprint, &c. and is made by any one of three processes, namely mechanical, chemical, or mechanical and chemical combined; the last process is referred to as "semi-chemical". The basic technological problem in producing satisfactory pulp from some eucalypt species, and from some other pulpwoods, was related to the relative shortness of their wood fibre; in the semi-chemical process, the preliminary chemical treatment of the wood reduces the amount of grinding required and thus prevents excessive fibre destruction. The following table shows production of this material over a four-year period, together with employment details for the industry:

Factor Class XII, Sub-Class 9—Paper Making

Particulars	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Number of Establishments	3	3	4	4
Average Number Employed During Year—				
Males	2,651	2,631	2,727	2,863
Females	442	411	471	510
Persons	3,093	3,042	3,198	3,373
Wood Pulp Produced (a) .. (Tons)	116,785	116,082	136,188	157,413

(a) Ground wood pulp, chemical and semi-chemical pulp.

In the previous table, figures for wood pulp should be regarded only as an index of production since the pulp is an "intermediate" product which has still to be converted to fine paper, newsprint, &c.

Sawmill decline 1977.jpg

Geographical Distribution of Sawmills

The next table records the absolute decline in the number of mills over recent years. The area with the heaviest incidence of closures has been the southern orcharding region.

**Distribution of Operative Sawmill and Plywood Mill Locations
by Statistical Divisions and Sub-divisions**

Statistical divisions and sub-divisions	1969-70	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Hobart	96	12	12	14	12
Southern		73	70	73	64
Northern—					
Tamar	53	61	61	56	55
North Eastern	36	29	29	30	27
Total	89	90	90	86	82
Mersey-Lyell—					
North Western	45	39	37	38	36
Western	8	8	8	7	7
Total	53	47	45	45	43
Tasmania	238	222	217	218	201

Sawmill decline 1981.jpg

Geographical Distribution of Sawmills

The next table records the overall decline in the number of mills over recent years. The areas with the heaviest incidence of closures have been the north-eastern and southern regions.

**Distribution of Operative Sawmill and Plywood Mill Locations
by Statistical Divisions and Sub-divisions**

Statistical divisions and sub-divisions	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Hobart	14	12	13	12	12	11
Southern	73	64	56	43	48	43
Northern—						
Tamar	56	55	52	48	43	39
North Eastern	30	27	25	21	19	19
Total	86	82	77	69	62	58
Mersey-Lyell—						
North Western	38	36	34	30	36	34
Western	7	7	7	7	8	7
Total	45	43	41	37	44	41
Tasmania	218	201	187	161	166	153

Forest-as-left-after-woodch.jpg



Fire incident divisional commander [redacted] of Forestry Tasmania, monito