

Ilise Bourke

From: lizc@pacific.net.au
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2013 10:59 AM
To: tfacommittee
Subject: Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012

Importance: High

The Secretary,
Legislative Council Select Committee on the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012, Parliament of Tasmania,
Hobart TAS 7004

Dear Sir/Madam,

I urge your committee to recommend to the Legislative Council that it pass the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 without amendment.

I was bitterly disappointed to hear the Legislative Council had decided not to endorse the Inter-governmental Agreement. I am a long-term supporter of the efforts of conservation groups in Tasmania to protect nominated forests and believed their campaign had finally been successful.

I have visited Tasmania as a tourist on many occasions and my interest in returning there depends largely on the protection of your magnificent forests.

Public comment on the Council's decision has illustrated a high degree of support for the IGA from all sides of the debate and demonstrates how far the protracted negotiations have gone towards an agreement that satisfies the majority of stakeholders. The research by the panel of experts was expensive and thorough; that investment of time and money should not be wasted by a last ditch attempt to counter the wishes of most stakeholders.

The Legislative Council, in endorsing the IGA to become legislation, will be remembered for its far-sighted and mature decision. To block the IGA will demonstrate to the Australian public that the Tasmanian Legislative Council is a parochial and short-sighted body.

I appeal from my heart to the members of the Select Committee to consider the detailed points raised by conservation groups in their submissions, in the spirit in which they are offered. I think the IGA offers the best future for Tasmania:

a sustainable forest industry, guaranteed wood supply
appropriate protection for high conservation value forests
Federal funds for regional economic development and
an end to conflict over balancing these factors.

All this can be achieved if the Legislative Council supports the IGA and passes the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 without amendment.

Sincerely
Elizabeth Cameron
46 Whitfield Parade
Hurstville Grove NSW 2220