

Subject: Parliamentary Inquiry into the Spring Bay Mill

Dear Committee Members,

Whatever your starting position was at the start of this inquiry, I implore you to be open to a future that is different from the past!

I have just returned from 2 months travelling through Europe, only to hear the same old arguments like a broken record!

To all those outside the State, it hardly sounds like a State 'open for business' when we keep looking back over our shoulder and challenging anything new.

From what background do I implore you all to be open to the Spring Bay Mill proposal?

Firstly, from a fourth generation Tasmanian timber family who pioneered timber milling in this State.

Secondly, from a lifelong East Coaster who went to school at Orford in the 1950's.

Thirdly, from a family who held both freehold and crown leases at Wielangta for the purposes of farming and forestry.

Fourthly, as a person whose family invested money in the original TPFH Woodchip Company on the basis it would utilize timber waste from sawlogs, and the forest floor.

Fifthly, as a professional consultant who facilitated Strategic Planning for the APPM Forestry and Timber Division in the 1980's

Finally as a professional consultant who conducted industry workshops for the FFIC in the 1990's on New Technology in the Forests, and Specialty Timber Species.

Much in the world has changed in the last 10-60 years, and it is important we move on with it.

The current State Government has the majority, but not the money to progress our tourist industry.

It needs Entrepreneurs like Graeme Wood to make projects like the Spring Bay Mill turn ideas into reality.

If the State Government lets this proposal slip away it will not be able to blame minority Government.

Every time Tourism Tasmania promotes the East Coast Region it utilizes photographs of natural beauty from the Bay of Fires, Bicheno, Freycinet, Little Swanport, Maria Island, Spring Beach , or Rheban.

What is lacking on the East Coast is quality accommodation, and experiential product. This is a circular argument as additional product needs increased numbers to sustain it (like the Maria Island Ferry does).

Just as Mona has provided a drawcard for the Southern Region, the Spring Bay Mill will provide a drawcard to the East Coast.

The role of the State Government would be better served providing the public infrastructure like sealing the link road from Orford through Wielangta to the Tasman Peninsula, and/or a fast ferry to Maria Island National Park.

The people of Triabunna have had enough of meetings, consultations, and enquiries, and being given false hope.

The majority have made the leap to support the future the Spring Bay Mill offers, and just want to see progress.

Now is the time for the Government and the Parliament to show some leadership and support the Entrepreneur and the community.

Yours faithfully,
Tony Ibbott