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To: tfacommittee
Subject: Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill

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18th January, 2013.

Submission

I urge all of our M.L.C's to pass this legislation urgently. The key elements require action now to protect the Agreement.

The forestry industry/ environmental debate has divided our community for many decades and this legislation provides the means to end that divisiveness, to place the forests based industries on a long term and sustainable course and to protect those environmentally sensitive areas of Tasmania.

The funding to be provided by the Commonwealth Government to rationalize the industry should not be jeopardised in any way.

For over two years the industry, environmental and union groups have worked to achieve an agreed position which should now be implemented and respected.

It is not the role of the Legislative Council, in my view, to determine Government policy. The Council has had many months to review the proposed legislation for any drafting problems, unforeseen impacts on other Acts and financial probity but chose instead to behave like the opposition to the Government rather than maintain an independent review function.

The impacts on individuals, businesses, interest groups, the environment and our communities will of course vary; an Act cannot work through all the nitty gritty, compensatory and other mechanisms in minute detail but should seek to focus on and promote the key principles as agreed. Many M.L.C's stated ability to overlook the problems within the industry when referring the Act to Committee; the over allocation of resource, the support for vested interests, the ongoing Government subsidies, increased monoculture, impacts on threatened species and environmental degradation is breathtaking. A need for a reduction of inflammatory language and a move away from a them and us mentality would be useful.

Providing a genuinely sustainable industry, value adding, protecting biodiversity and rare environments on a world wide scale and meeting the future needs of as many Tasmanians as possible should be the objective. Our markets will not recover and gain confidence overnight but this Act will provide the first step of demonstrating closure of a debate which has gone on for far too long.

A move to Forestry Tasmania managed production forest zones with Forest Stewardship Council standards would remove radical environmentalists ability to disrupt markets and seriously undermine the industry. This can be a successful, profitable, sustainable, ongoing industry for us all into the future. As Professor Jonathon West intimated in his report a failure to move forward will result in a loose, loose situation.

Thank you for this opportunity to put a few thoughts to this inquiry.

Lyn Taylor.

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