

**From:** Tim Thorne <tth26550@bigpond.net.au>  
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**To:** tfacommittee  
**Subject:** Submission from Tim Thorne

**Submission to the Legislative Council of Tasmania Select Committee inquiring into the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 (No 30)**

The fundamental issue concerning the forestry industry is its purpose. In other words, any decision about the industry must be based on what the industry is intended to produce.

In the context of increasing climatic instability caused by the emission into the atmosphere of 'greenhouse gases' (including carbon dioxide) any activity which facilitates the conversion of forests into short-lived products such as paper and cardboard must be curtailed. The alternative is to actively encourage, or at least to allow, further contribution towards long term environmental and economic disaster.

The relevance of this to the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 currently under examination by the Committee is that the Agreement does not exclude the use of Tasmanian forests to produce woodchips for paper pulp production, nor does it exclude the integration of a Tasmanian sited pulp mill into the industry.

Any Agreement which does not aim to restrict the forestry industry to the production of such durable products as construction timber, furniture, boats, veneers, craft items and other products which are likely to retain their carbon content for at least as long as the predictable age of the trees from which they ultimately derive, is basically flawed and should be rejected. It should certainly not, I submit, be incorporated into legislation.

There are many ways in which the Agreement and, consequently, the Bill could be improved before enabling legislation is enacted. These include providing for a review of the operations and structure of Forestry Tasmania, adoption of the principle of whole-of-catchment management, the phasing out of those timber plantations which are only of use for woodchip production, the abolition of clear-felling and the banning of the use of atrazines, 1080 and other similar poisons in all forests.

It appears to me from my perusal of the proposed legislation that amending it along these lines would not only be a major task, but would, in fact, render it so different in intent as to be unacceptable to its instigators.

Therefore I humbly request that the Committee recommend that the Legislative Council vote against the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 and allow for wider community discussion, particularly of the points I have raised above, before any further legislation is proposed.

Submitted by:

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