

*P.O. Box 1374,
Port Arthur 7182,
14-4-2011.*

*Stuart Wright,
Committee Secretary,
Parliament House,
Hobart 7000.*

Re; Public Native Forest Transition Enquiry.

As a forester with 52 years of experience in the forestry industry, both in government and private forestry and as a private forest owner, I have some deep concerns in relation to the proposals being put forward in the Statement of Principles currently being investigated by Bill Kelty.

*The forest industry I believe started here in the Port Arthur area on a commercial basis during the convict era around 1830-1876 when timber products were exported to mainland Australia and overseas.
The forest areas harvested then were regenerated by wildfire in the late 1800's and then logged again by the early settlers in the 1930's.*

*Large bushfires in 1939 regenerated the forest once again which has now resulted in 70+ years old forest.
Part of this forest, 100+Hc is now on my property and is being harvested on a bi-annual basis to provide a superannuation stream.*

The result of the proposed transition out of native forests into a plantation based industry, may well severely impact on private forest owners ability to market their products, particularly woodchip quality timber which can make up approximately 70% of wood harvested.

*The Statement of Principles does not define High Conservation Value Forests (H.C.V.)
These forest areas should be scientifically assessed and not based on ENGO's emotions, as is the case currently.*

*The Regional Forest Agreement (R.F.A.) and Community Forest Agreement (C.F.A.) have provided sufficient protection of H.C.V. Forests.
As these agreements are still in force any further reservations of land will be breaching these agreements.*

The forest practices system provides additional protection for threatened fauna and flora, landscape values, and streamside reserves etc., which already results in more forest areas in unofficial reserves.

Under the Statement of Principles the parties agree to the following; copy attached.

Private Forests:

Encourage and support, but not mandate etc.

This appears to mean that no compensation is envisaged for private forest owners providing any further community benefits.

Tourism:

Further development of nature based tourism needs very careful consideration in the current economic climate as tourism is in decline and parts of the industry are running at a loss. E.g. Tarkine Visitors Centre and Eagleview at Maydena.

Biomass:

Restricting the use of biomass to only plantation residues will impact on private forest owners' ability to sell biomass for Renewable Energy Certificates and other emerging markets.

Community Engagement:

No engagement has been forthcoming with Municipal Councils, T.F.G.A., Private Forests Tasmania and others.

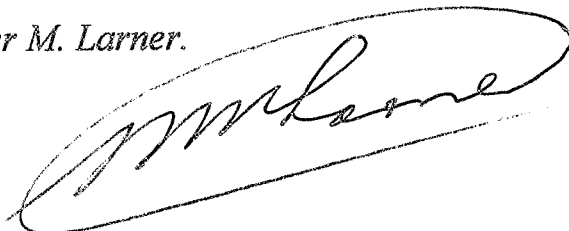
Any proposal to stop logging on State Forests should not be put up as a means to make more National Parks.

Rather if deemed necessary these areas should be classed as "Deferred Forest Areas" to be used for timber production in the future if and when new industries are developed e.g. rayon, plywood and composite fibre products.

Japan is currently looking for the supply of 30,000 kit homes in the next two months.

This is a good example of a demand for forest products, which we would not be able to meet if our State Forests are locked up.

Roger M. Larner.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Larner', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.