

The Hon. Greg Hall MLC
Parliament House
Hobart

Dr Mark Neyland
398 Park Street
New Town, Tasmania
13 April 2011

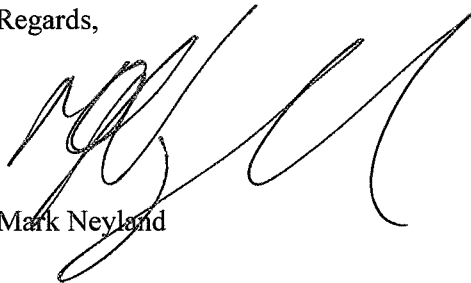
Dear Greg,

I would be pleased to understand through the current inquiry, the reasons why the forests labelled as 'high conservation value' during the current debate, are in fact (if they are), of high conservation value.

Successive inquiries have examined the forests of Tasmania, and the RFA in particular identified all the rare, threatened and vulnerable forest types in the State, and ensured that sufficient areas of each forest type were contained within the reserve system. The rarest forest types were wholly protected, and the more widespread forest types were all reserved to a minimum level determined through the National Forest Policy Statement and other processes. It is impossible to believe that during the RFA process the team of respected scientists, which I was part of, somehow overlooked 550 000 plus hectares of high conservation value forest.

To date there has been no mention of any reasons for the claim of high conservation value. The areas purported to be of high conservation value appear simply to be lines drawn on the map in a desk based exercise designed to capture any significant areas of State forest. In the process of course they have actually drawn lines around significant areas of plantation and silvicultural regeneration. No-one seems to see the irony in the fact that the greens can claim the silvicultural regeneration to be of high conservation value. After all, if it is, then clearly you can have forestry, and conservation value, which of course many of us believe to always be the case.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Neyland', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Neyland