

Petition No:

12-12

GOVERNMENT POSITION:

The Government welcomes the support of the petitioners for the Tasmanian Forest Agreement (TFA) and the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012*.

The Government agrees that the forest industry has made, and will continue to make, a very important contribution to Tasmania's economy and that jobs for forest workers, their families and communities are very important.

The Tasmanian Government has committed to implementing the TFA and the associated enabling legislation as this will provide the best possible chance of a long-term sustainable forest industry in Tasmania while also providing an opportunity to resolve the long-running conflict in our forests. Restoring market certainty is a key objective of the TFA.

There have been significant developments in the consideration of the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012* since the Petition was closed and submitted. The Tasmanian Legislative Council has established a Select Committee to inquire into and report on the Bill. The Government is cooperating with the Select Committee to facilitate the Council's consideration of the Bill.

The Government would request that the Legislative Council give due consideration to this Petition in their deliberations.



Bryan Green MP
Minister for Energy and Resources