

Tabled by Hon. C. Farrell MLC

17/4/13.

16-2012.

Petition No: LC



RESPONSE TO PETITION

TITLE OF PETITION: **Tasmanian Forests Agreement**

That your Petitioners note the Tasmanian Forests Agreement

1. Will turn our forest industry into a cottage industry;
2. Increase the amount of Tasmania locked up by eight percent, to 52 percent;
3. Will cost further jobs;
4. Will not deliver the promised peace;
5. Trashes written guarantees of supply in the Intergovernmental Agreement:
 - i) IGA promise of 155,000 m³ trashed, now 137,000 m³;
 - ii) No legislative supply guarantee for Ta Ann, despite previous promises;
 - iii) 12,500 m³ of speciality timbers not delivered. The deal's 37,954 ha available will cut supply by 60%, and non-blackwood species by 80%;
6. Won't deliver the promised pulp mill;
7. Was meant to facilitate the re-opening of the Triabunna mill, but has not;
8. The compensation for shutting down half our forest industry is pitiful; and
9. It will dramatically increase bushfire risk.

And your Petitioners request that the Legislative Council reject the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012, and your Petitioners request the Premier to seek a mandate for the Deal by calling an election.

GOVERNMENT POSITION:

The Government acknowledges the views and concerns of the petitioners, but cannot support the requests from petitioners for the Legislative Council to reject the *Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill 2012* and for the Premier to call an election.

The Government is of a firm view that the Tasmanian Forests Agreement 20112 (TFA) and the enabling legislation, the *Tasmanian Forest Agreement Bill 2012*, gives the best

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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.

The TFA provides for further support for individuals, businesses and communities affected by the ongoing changes in the forest industry to ensure they remain strong and resilient. Further support of more than \$215 million will be made available by Governments to support the TFA and ongoing regional development if the Bill is supported by the Parliament. This level of support would not be possible without the TFA and the commitment from both Governments to its implementation.

Without the TFA mainstream environmental organisations would resume their protests in the forests leading to further business closures and lack of investment and access to finance in the industry there would continue to be job losses in the industry as and in markets.

The TFA provides the best hope of delivering much needed certainty to the industry – certainty of access for future supply and certainty to the markets of environmental and social sustainability. It is creating an environment in which solutions around pressing issues like residue management can be constructively pursued. It provides for research into new and innovative ways to better utilise our timber resources – enhancing the industry and ensuring it has a sustainable future.

The decision of the Tasmanian Legislative Council to establish a Select Committee to inquire into and report on the Bill has provided a further opportunity to consider the many complex issues pertaining to the current state and future potential of the industry, the development of the TFA, the opportunities it presents and the risks of not proceeding. These issues include those specifically mentioned in the Petition. It also presents an opportunity for the wide range of views held in the community to be presented and thoroughly considered.



Bryan Green MP
Minister for Energy and Resources