

## Letter to Editor Mercury Newspaper.

Sir,

Forestry Tasmania has been conducting trials of alternatives to clearfelling in state owned mature mixed native forest in southern Tasmania.

After several less than successful attempts, a method at Warra 17B has demonstrated that it is possible to safely work within a coupe and extract enough quality sawlog and some pulpwood to more than cover all costs.

The focus of this trial was to allow a healthy forest industry based on local value adding to world class timber, of several species, without the catastrophic change to the environment that clearfelling causes.

By leaving most of the coupe in its natural healthy state - focusing on extracting mature timber while leaving immature trees and all leatherwood undisturbed and only a minimum of low intensity burning - the results are far more acceptable to most Tasmanians who, although in favour of a forest industry, are appalled by current management practices.

I have been involved with these trials for more than five years and it is extremely disappointing that a follow up trial (Warra 8G) with a slightly different focus looks like being delayed for another nine months because of a few minor complications. It seems to me, if Forestry continues to conduct the trials at such a "snails pace" our reserves of high quality old growth in southern multiple use forests will be exhausted before the results are fully tabled. The industrial woodchippers will have been victorious.

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