

Mr Evan Rolley
Manager
Forestry Tasmania

1 09 05

Dear Mr Rolley,

As you are aware the members of Timber Workers For Forest Inc are very concerned about certainty of supply of special species timbers for future generations. The recent Community Forest Agreement almost halved the areas of STMUs. Although you believe that we are to be “blamed” for this outcome, it is quite clear that the main influence on our current Federal Government to reserve the Tarkine was the recommendation by the World Wildlife Fund made in *A Blueprint for the Forest Industry and Vegetation Management In Tasmania* in July 2004. Timber Workers For Forests foresaw its inevitability in its paper, *Tasmania’s Specialty Timber Industry; a Blueprint for Future Sustainability*.

Give that sooner or later the Tarkine would be reserved, we proposed that alternatives in the timber production areas of state forest should be set-aside for STMUs.

Foresight is not something for which we should be blamed.

When the Community Forest agreement was released, we attempted to discover the areas, which could be relied on to supply SST in perpetuity. As a result we learnt that Mr Steve Whiteley had been appointed as State Manager for Special Species. I contacted Mr Whiteley and invited him to attend one of our meetings. He declined at short notice. One month later we again invited him to one of our meetings, and at his request I met him in his office to confirm his acceptance of our invitation and discussed the issues to be considered at our meeting. During the preliminary meeting he declined once more- this time only the day before our meeting.

Both Mr Whiteley’s apparent limited knowledge of recent research on Selective Harvesting Techniques; essential for a sustainable special species management system and also what I thought was a lack of interest in the subject were matters of concern to me.

I am at a loss to understand his attitude. Perhaps his statement in Tasforest Vol 11, “a forest must be growing this means replacing mature and over mature forests which show no net growth, with actively growing forests”, i.e. regrowth eucalypt based forestry management to the detriment of special species timbers and mature eucalypt. Also he appears to be responsible for killing “El Grande” the largest living tree in the southern hemisphere the excuse –too much “naturalness” left around the tree! It is unacceptable that an individual who has these attitudes should be in charge of SST management.

At the moment, the sale of Special Species Timbers earns Forestry Tasmania far less than the sale of wood chips but given the RFA there is no reason, or right, to largely ignore and destroy these immensely valuable and unique timbers.

The view of the TWFF is that is the responsibility of FT to ensure there is a sustainable supply of all of these timbers including mature eucalypt forever. Refusing to discuss SST management with our group or show us maps (even if still in preliminary form) is entirely inappropriate.

Please confirm:

- 1) You will arrange for Mr Whiteley to be urgently brought up to date with recent research on selective harvesting systems.
- 2) You will instruct him to attend in the near future one of our meetings, with maps, so that he can advise us of Forestry Tasmania's plans to ensure continued supply, on a sustainable basis of Tasmania's Special Species Timbers.
- 3) Timber Workers for the Forests will have an active future role in the development of harvesting and management methods.
- 4) At a time at your earliest convenience we have a meeting when our group can discuss these and other issues with you personally, as publicly promised.

Your Sincerely,
Ian Johnston
President Timber Workers For Forests

Cc Premier Paul Lennon
Cc Rene Hidding
Cc Peg Putt
Cc Editors (not for publication) Mercury, Examiner, Advocate.
Cc Tasmanian Times,
Cc Steve Whiteley
And others