

5 May 2011

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Radcliffe

Re: Inquiry into the exposure draft and explanatory memorandum of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011

Thank you for your letter dated 4 April 2011 in regard to the above matter.

I wish to advise that the East Gippsland Shire Council represents approximately 10% of the geographic area of Victoria. Significantly the Shire is approximately 75% forested and has significant timber and eco tourism industries within its bounds. As such Council has taken considerable interest in the preparation of the Draft Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011. I have also been personally involved with the delegation that proposed this initiative in my role on the National Timber Council of Australia.

Illegal logging and importation of illegally logged timber threatens the existing timber industry that has proactively supported regulation of industry practices.

On that basis, I now write on behalf of the Council to support the proposed Bill.

East Gippsland Shire Council looks forward to enactment of the Bill which is considered to provide security to the region's existing timber industry.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Executive Officer

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