

Secretary: *Albee*

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SUBMISSION NO 41

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES  
AND FORESTRY

Launceston City Council, Tasmania Submission to:

The Inquiry into Future Water Supplies for Australia's  
Rural Industries &  
Communities

In the last few years the CRC for Catchment Hydrology has  
been doing some  
excellent work on the water use by forests that are being  
actively  
harvested. The Launceston City Council has commissioned a  
study by the CRC  
into the impacts of forestry on our local water supply.

We believe that it is imperative that the full social,  
economic and  
environmental impacts of forestry on the water balance is  
taken into account  
in the water management planning process. Until recently  
the hydrological  
assessment of these impacts has been very difficult but now  
with software  
such as the CRC's Macaque model this is possible and should  
be used wherever  
possible.

We suggest that the Federal Government should make the  
assessment of  
forestry impacts on water yields mandatory on all water  
resources projects  
where Federal Grants are involved. Also the forest industry  
should be  
required to predict and publish the likely impacts of  
forestry on all town  
water supplies, hydro electric schemes, irrigation schemes  
and on  
environmental flows.

This would be best achieved by Forestry Industry  
contributing to the cost of  
carrying out this analysis. However the actual analysis  
should be carried

out by an independent State or Federal Agency not directly associated with forestry.

The report on the Launceston Water Supply is attached, it is in draft form at the moment but we will be happy to provide a copy of the final report when available. We intend to hold a seminar in Launceston in early November where the results of the report will be presented, members of the committee are welcome to attend if they are interested.  
<<Launceston.Draft.pdf>>

Regards

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