SUBMISSION No. 80
Inquiry into the Australian forestry industry

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The Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

March 2011

Dear Committee Secretary,

Inquiry into the current and future prospects of the Australian forestry industry

Please accept the following submission provided by Timber Communities Australia Tasmanian State Office for and on behalf of TCA's Tasmanian membership for consideration by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry into the current and future prospects of the Australian forestry industry

Kind regards,

Barry Chipman
Tasmanian State Manager
Timber Communities Australia

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry

Inquiry into the current and future prospects of the Australian forestry industry

Submission by Timber Communities Australia – Tasmanian State Office
March 2011

About Timber Communities Australia

Timber Communities Australia (TCA) is a national community based organisation, founded in 1987 that endeavours to represent individuals, families and their local communities that depend on the sustainable management of productive natural forests and tree farm plantation resources, to create and maintain social , economic and environmental well being for this and future generations of Australians.

Our aim is to secure long term access to natural resources to generate employment and a future for regional communities, and to ensure our unique Australian forests are scientifically evaluated and sustainable managed for the benefit of future generations and genetic diversity.

Specifically, TCA aims to:

- promote the sensible, balanced multiple use of our forests for the benefit of all Australians;
- improve the public's knowledge, awareness and understanding of forest issues;
- provide a national grassroots voice for people associated with or supportive of Australia's forest-based industries;
- help ensure government decision-making processes are aware of the facts and the benefits generated by forest industries, so that well-founded decisions can be made;
- ensure ecologically unique areas of Australian forests are properly managed;
- support the establishment of hardwood and softwood plantations to provide an additional, high quality wood resource for Australia.

Introduction

In the last few years, there have been some significant developments (both negative and positive) which have had an impact on Tasmania's forest industries and dependent communities. These developments include:

- Changes in world markets for wood products, particularly woodchips (including the impact of misleading anti forestry campaigns and a high Australian dollar)
- Continued growth opportunities for building appearance and furniture grade sawn hardwood timbers.
- Positive development of rotary veneer processing.
- Role of managed forestry in carbon restoration.
- Pending construction ready Bell Bay pulp mill
- Uncertainty for continued hardwood plantation investment.

It is therefore an appropriate time to consider the challenges and opportunities facing the industry and most important its dependent communities.TCA Tasmanian members welcome this opportunity to contribute to this important Standing Committee's inquiry.

Opportunities for and constraints upon production

(i) Introductory comment

Australia has a trade deficit of over $2 billion per annum in forest products. The continued development of an environmentally-sound, sustainable and value-adding forest products industry in Australia is vital if we are to reduce this deficit. With renewed certainty Tasmania is well placed to make a major contribution to reducing this deficit.

Although there is a stumbling block hindering this goal in that, the level of public knowledge about our forests still remains as a major constraint to the future of Tasmania's forest sector. Images used by anti forestry activists to claim forest destruction, give weight to the perception there is a need to "Save the Forest" and to restrict economic development based on the sustainable management of our natural forests and plantation tree farms.

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Yet the level of forest reservation in place for conservation values here in Tasmania greatly exceeds the target under the convention of biological diversity or that called for by international environmental lobbyists. We are now at a situation where the massive reservation of Tasmania's natural forest is almost 50%.

This high level of forest reservation also brings with it changes to future resource availability. The ability of Forestry Tasmania to be able to maintain a reliable supply of high quality hardwood sawlogs is already under stress. There are plans for hardwood plantations to be a future supply of sawlogs but for TCA Tasmania members these plans bring much uncertainty as CRC Forestry research shows that the majority of the existing hardwood plantation resource is not presently suitable as a viable replacement for the high quality traditional natural grown resource.
Following is a link to the above mentioned CRC Forestry report
http://www.crcforestry.com.au/publications/downloads/Bulletin-13-Sawn-timber-properties.pdf

(ii) The native forest sector

The native forest sector has experienced both positive and negative challenges since the signing of the original RFA in 1997 and the supplementary Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement in 2005. A positive development has been the establishment of a viable export market for rotary peeled veneer, (utilising regrowth logs previously destined for chip export.) with Ta Ann Tasmania establishing two processing mills, at Lonnavale and Smithton.

Also Tasmanian family hardwood sawmills throughout the state have invested in major retooling and upgrading investments, which has greatly assisted the hardwood milling sector to not just maintain its market share but to also achieve growth for appearance grade natural timbers and supply to fine furniture makers. For example TCA research has confirmed very substantial recent investments made by a number of Tasmanian natural timber fine furniture makers in the Launceston district alone. A summary report of that research is attached as attachment a.

The negative aspect has been the rapid decline in the overseas market for hardwood woodchips. Associated with this has been the closure of North West Coast PaperlinX Burnie and Wesley Vale processing facilities. These unfortunate developments have affected the economic viability of many harvesting and haulage contracting families, which extends to sub-contracting families who depend on the pulpwood market for their income. The decline in the market for residues has also affected Forestry Tasmania's forest management and planning, which has impacted upon viability of some sawlog harvesting operations. TCA Tasmanian members strongly advocate innovative projects such as biomass energy from harvest and milling residues as a local alternative to the present dependence upon single market exports.

In the longer term, the absence of a market for residues will affect the regeneration of our forest after harvesting.

The recent decline in the chip export market and writing paper production sectors of the forest industry have had a major impact on many rural communities throughout Tasmania, and the exciting uncertainty for the construction of the Bell Bay pulpmill are core concerns of TCA Tasmania.

There have also been other significant changes at the national and international level since the Tasmanian RFA was signed – for example, concerns about carbon emissions and climate change were in their infancy but have now assumed far greater importance.

(iii) The plantation sector

The recent turbulent period felt in the plantation sector highlights the need for governments and financial institutions to recognise the long-term nature of forestry investment when considering taxation and investment issues. It is vitally important that Government policies continue to support the establishment of new plantations and the replanting of harvested plantations to ensure a continuing supply of wood to industry. A secure long-term wood supply is particularly important if the proposed Bell Bay pulpmill is to proceed.

As well as helping to reduce Australia's trade deficit in forest products, the proposed pulpmill will provide much-needed employment here in Tasmania, including in plantation tree farm management, harvest and haulage, also in the mill itself and support industries. TCA research shows that the Bell Bay pulp mill will incorporate the latest technology and will be world-leading in terms of efficiency and environmental management. .

Opportunities for diversification, value adding and product innovation

Storage of carbon emissions provides a range of very worth while opportunities for Tasmania's forest and wood based industries, provided that governments recognise that significant amounts of carbon are stored for decades or century's in house frames, furniture, paper and other wood based products. As forests are regenerated, more carbon is sequestered from the atmosphere. This process of tree growth, harvest and regeneration can continue in perpetuity, providing a continuing source of carbon removal and greenhouse gas abatement.

In fact, forestry is the only carbon-positive industry sector in Australia when the full life-cycle of wood products is taken into account[1].

Also the United Nations 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report states;
"*In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit[1].*" [1] Chapter 9 page 543

The increasing national interest in reducing Australia's carbon footprint presents a major opportunity for Tasmania to develop markets for new wood based products which can be marketed as "greenhouse-friendly" or "carbon-neutral" (as confirmed by the above mentioned UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.)

As previously mentioned market diversification is essential for meeting the challenges arising from the changes in once reliable export markets for natural forest wood chips.

The present unreliability of traditional export woodchip markets and the increasing volume of overseas plantation-grown wood is perhaps one of the two biggest challenge confronting Tasmanian timber families since the 2005 Community Forest Agreement.

The other challenge (and interconnected to the above) is the present Forestry Statement of Principles process. The purpose and aim of TCA's involvement is based upon a desire to achieve much improved long-term certainty for timber families throughout Tasmania.

We don't know whether this can be achieved via this present process, but using the old adage *nothing ventured nothing gained* we are continuing with the journey but this continuation does not commit TCA to any final destination, the destination we are looking for is one that will put Tasmanian timber families in a better position then they are today.

For right or wrong TCA accepted the challenge to enter into formal negotiations with past adversaries, the ENGO's and without doubt for all Tasmanian timber families involved the journey continues to presented extremely challenging times and decision making. For a proud timber dependent family it's not just about a job it's much deeper than that, it about values and beliefs, a generational way of life, the ability to provide for the next generation via a commitment to the working forests they know, it is something you don't retrain or structurally adjust. This generational connection is the very reason Tasmania still has a viable forest industry; it is some thing you just don't simply walk away from.

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[1] *Wood and Australia's Carbon Balance.* FWPRDC and CRC for Greenhouse Accounting, Forests. 2006

To accept the notion that the SOP negotiation process may bring about long term certainty is also very challenging as the process in its self brings about uncertainty, but it also presents positive opportunities for our industry to promote a broad awareness of the never ending value adding investments that are happening within the sawmilling, rotary veneer and special timbers sectors.

TCA supports the following objectives of the negotiations:

(i) To ensure that long-term contracts for the harvesting / cartage and supply of adequate volumes and grades of logs to all participants in the native forests processing sector are delivered, with compensation for any failure to do so.
(ii) To achieve the construction of a pulpmill at Bell Bay.
(iii) To ensure that forests containing independently-determined high conservation values are appropriately managed.
(iv) To the extent that it is driven by the determination of high conservation value forests, any further transition from native forests to plantations occurs only when the substitute resource is available in the required volumes and grades at the required locations.

TCA's position with regard to further talks remains as follows:

(i) No new forest areas should be added to the reserve system until these forests have been independently and scientifically assessed and verified for their high conservation values and an appropriate forest management plan has been developed with wide stakeholder engagement. TCA notes that a document on data verification has already been partially developed and would like to see it finalised and formally adopted.
(ii) That any transition should occur only to the extent that it is driven by the determination of additional areas of reservation consistent with item (i) and/or by agreement between the parties, and subject to there being plantation resource of adequate quality, quantity and location.
(iii) That the clause prohibiting the use of native forest residues for biomass be removed as such matters should be determined through the appropriate legislative processes in the Federal parliament.
(iv) That TCA's support is contingent on the opportunity for a pulpmill project to proceed being delivered in full by other parties to the agreement.
(v) That those contractors and sub-contractors remaining in the sector through the restructure be provided with appropriate contractual arrangements.
(vi) That the remaining sawmills, rotary veneer mills and specialty timber users be provided with viable resource supply arrangements.

While the negotiations have been initiated by non-government organisations, TCA appreciates the support provided by governments to date. Any final agreement will be dependent on continuing government support in relation to forest management, wood supply contracts, plantation establishment, replanting after harvest and a range of other matters.

TCA Tasmania wishes to stress that it does not support a forced withdrawal of industry from native forests. Research shows that Tasmanian family hardwood sawmills, veneer mills and their value adding end use processers are dependent on natural forests for their wood supply. Also it is evident that for most of these enterprises existing hardwood plantations cannot provide the required species, log quality or volume to enable a transition to plantations. To ensure the continued viability of these enterprises, TCA Tasmania supports the continuation of the Tasmanian RFA.

TCA Tasmania also calls on governments to ensure that none of these enterprises are adversely affected and for all natural forest based businesses that wish to remain have long-term secure access to viable and reliable wood supplies.

Finally, TCA notes the immediate critical circumstances facing the forest harvesting / cartage sector and welcomes the assistance by governments to date. But at the same time it is of considerable concern to TCA Tasmania that effected sub-contracting families have not been able to access government assistance, this concern also extends to hard wood plantation dependent contracting and sub-contracting families impacted upon by similar critical circumstances. In the advent of any additional government assistance TCA would very much welcome their inclusion for assistance consideration.

Other opportunities for innovation in the forest industries are discussed below in relation to energy production and biofuels.

Environmental impacts of forestry

TCA Tasmania members support the concept of sustainable development of balancing social, economic and environmental needs, if we ignore or favour any one of these elements the development will not be sustainable. Thus we support the sustainable forest management implemented by the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement and the Tasmanian Forest Practices Code. This code provides restrictions to safeguard water catchments, water quality and major cultural and environmental values. The code which is subject to regular review following public consultations ensures ecologically unique areas of Tasmanian forests are properly managed.

Also the certification achievements made via the Australian Forestry Standard and the Forest Stewardship Council processes are evidence of our industry's environmental credentials.

In Tasmania planning laws ensure there is a balance in competing needs of residential, industrial and agricultural industries including forestry. The State government has a state wide policy of protecting agricultural land. Another important state-wide policy is the creation of Private Timber Reserves to ensure the long term management including harvest and regrowth of private forest designated for timber production.

But conflict between environmentalists and the forest industry over the use of native forests has had a very negative impact upon Tasmanian timber families. Despite present (and much valued) bipartisan support at the state and federal parliamentary level for Tasmania's forest and wood based industry the conflict continues and has brought uncertainty for all involved in our industry, uncertainty as to continued long-term access to resources and adding to this is the constant need to defend an industry that is based upon a renewable resource and the science shows is a truly environmentally-friendly industry.

TCA Tasmania strongly refutes claims made to the contrary which are often based on emotion rather than sound science. For example for the past 30 years timber families have endured anti forestry activist claims that the forest industries are the destroyers of the forest "*a logged forest will never return*, *it is lost for ever"* but now these "destroyed" forests are being claimed to be high conservation value by the same activists that previously claimed they where destroyed. This double standard brings great frustration to timber families, which are best summed up in a recent membership newsletter prepared by our Meander branch which is attached as attachment b.

Creating a better business environment for forest industries
TCA Tasmania members support the vision outlined by the National Forest Policy Statement for long term investment in managing our natural forests and establishing <u>appropriate</u> tree farm plantations for sawlog production. However it is recognised that there is limited investment in plantations for hardwood sawlogs. There are 2 million hectares of plantations in Australia about half being softwood. The vast majority of the hardwood plantations are managed for short rotation pulp wood.

In Tasmania, less than 31,000 ha of hardwood plantation is managed on public land for sawlog production.

Therefore a taxation model needs to be developed to encourage the correct long term investment in sawlogs, either treating the assets like superannuation (as many farm foresters do today). The model also needs to recognise that tree farm plantations are a long-term business and that returns on investment might not occur for many years. But most important we do not want to see plantations established solely for tax concessions.

Tree farm plantation establishment should be based on sound forestry and business principles, taking into account species, site, markets, transport, ease of harvesting, labour availability and other factors. It is very distressing that some plantation establishment companies have been forced into closure over the last couple of years, but thankfully the plantations remain in the ground and can continue to be managed for their resource value. The difficulty faced by these tree farm plantation companies has led to calls from some quarters for a major overhaul of tax laws relating to plantations. TCA Tasmania's response to this is as mentioned in the above paragraph.

Also banks and governments need to recognise the increasing environmental significance of all aspects of our forest and wood bases industries and the potential benefits arising from markets for carbon and biofuels.

In Europe governments are proudly promoting their "*going green"* in energy production, this "going green" is achieved by using wood as a replacement for fossil fuels.

TCA Tasmania also supports the continuation of Forest and Wood Products Australia and the CRC for Forestry as both being vital for the long term future of our forest and wood based industries.

Social and economic benefits of forestry production
Tasmania's forest and wood based industries are a major source of regional employment throughout the state. Many of these jobs are generational and much of the investments are in small rural communities, which greatly underpins the social and economic well-being of these communities' made more important by the fact that other employment opportunities are some what otherwise limited. Forestry related jobs have enabled young people to stay in their own region rather than having to move away to find work.

Despite the distressing loss of over 2,000 jobs in the past three years, the industry remains a vital part of Tasmania's economy. Most of the job losses are associated with the closure of PaperlinX Burnie and Wesley Vale processing facilities, the downturn in the woodchip export market and the decision by Gunns Ltd to close its softwood processing operations in Scottsdale. The construction the Bell Bay pulpmill and security of wood supplies are vital if these jobs are to be recovered.

In relation to plantation establishment, the CRC for Forestry has commissioned several very important reports into the Tasmanian forest industry[2] undertaken by Dr Jacki Schirmer (ANU Fenner School for Environment and Society) these reports have found that although there are some social impacts in the short term, these have to be weighed against the fact that rural populations are declining in many areas, regardless of the establishment of plantations. These reports also show the importance of the forest and wood based industries to Tasmania and the serious social and economic costs of the current down turn.

Potential energy production from the forestry sector
There is much discussion about the potential for wind and solar power to replace, at least partially, fossil fuel generated energy production. To date Australia has largely ignored the important place that wood can play in energy generation.

As previously mentioned the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 states that; "*In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.*"[3]

As previously mentioned in Europe, Scandinavia and America a significant amount of electricity is produced from biomass, much of it is wood waste from forestry (in Sweden and Finland, for example, wood-based biofuels provide around 20 per cent of energy). In Australia, (including Tasmania) the forest

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[2] *Tasmania's Forest Industry: Trends in Forest Industry Employment and Turnover, 2006-2010.* Report by Dr Jacqui Schirmer for CRC Forestry Ltd. November 2010.
[3] *Mitigation of Climate Change*. IPCC Fourth Assessment Report 2007 See http://ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch9s9-es.html

industry can play a major role in the production of energy through the use of harvesting and silvicultural residues; sawmill residues, and other wood by-products which would otherwise go to waste.

Some environmentalists have argued against the use of wood waste as a biofuels. TCA Tasmania members strongly reject such arguments which are not based on full life-cycle analysis of wood products. As discussed above, wood is a carbon-positive product when the full forest cycle is taken into account. Wood is also many times more greenhouse-friendly than alternative products, such as coal.

Interestingly the use of wood as an important future energy provider is highlighted in a WWF report *Biopowerswitch* in 2004 identified a 15% target electricity from biomass for OECD countries. The report identified residues "*from crops, animal husbandry, logging and co products from industrial wood processing such as sawmills, dedicated energy plantations or short rotation trees and woody biomass from multiple use forests".*

Also Australia's *National Climate Change and Commercial Forestry Action Plan 2009-2012*[4] recognises the advantages of bioenergy and promotes the use of wood waste for energy production. The advantages include:

- the displacement of energy derived from fossil fuel;
- the avoidance of conflicts over the use of food products for fuel production.
- employment opportunities in regional and rural areas;
- ancillary benefits such as salinity mitigation, water quality improvement, erosion control, weed management, habitat protection and improved plantation profitability;

Here in Tasmania, energy production silvicultural and sawmill residues could provide an alternative to woodchip exports which, as mentioned, are at present a declining market. The use of residues for energy production will not involve the harvest of additional areas of forest – it will simply mean that instead of being burnt and wasted, the residues can provide renewable energy to replace the use of fossil fuels.

TCA Tasmania urges the Federal, State and Territory governments to as they consider alternative energy sources, to recognise the potential greenhouse gas benefits in using waste wood to generate energy. In particular, we encourage all governments to recognise residues from natural forests as well as plantations as legitimate sources of biomass for energy production. TCA research shows that technology already exists for biofuels, biomass, and biochar to be cogenerated with existing or new processing plants producing traditional or new wood products.

Land use competition between the forestry and agriculture sectors
Tasmania has both a Protection of Agricultural Land Policy and a Permanent Forest Estate Policy that ensure a balance is made between competition for land for growing wood fibre or food. The following table from the 2010 annual

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[4] *National Climate Change and Commercial Forestry Action Plan 2009-2012.* Natural Resource Management and Primary Industries Ministerial Councils. 2009.

report of Private Forests Tasmanian shows that highly valued tall eucalypt forest and rainforest on private land have remained constant in area since 2006. It also shows a substantial increase in hardwood plantations at the expense of non forest and low eucalypt forested land. Tasmania's private plantation estate is about 204,000 hectares and covers 3% of Tasmania's landmass.

Forest groups on private land – 2006 to 2009 (hectares)

Forest group	As at December 2006	As at December 2009	Increase over 2006 estimate	Decrease over 2006 estimate
Non-forest	1,675,976	1,640,304		35,672
Eucalypt low forest	666,587	650,134		16,453
Eucalypt tall forest	161,003	161,267	263	
Rainforest	16,932	16,608		323
Other native forest	32,434	31,438		996
Plantation - hardwood	129,921	181,637	51,717	
Plantation - softwood	20,557	23,139	2,582	
Totals	2,703,409	2,704,526	54,562	53,444
Net change		+1,117		

Research shows that the Tasmanian government uses the Land Capability Classification System (LCCS) to assess, classify and map land according to its ability to support a range of crops on a long term sustainable basis. Land that is assessed as being class 1, 2, 2-3 or 3 is regarded as 'prime agricultural land'.

As at 31 December 2006, there were 107,005 hectares of land mapped and assessed as Class 1-3 land and 596,104 hectares of land mapped and assessed as Class 4 land. At that time there were 5,290 hectares of plantations established on land mapped as Class 1-3, representing 3.5% of the total private plantation estate and 4.9% of the total area of Class 1-3 land.

TCA Tasmania supports the project by the CRC for Forestry titled *Living with Plantations*"[5]. This project, due for completion in 2011, seeks to understand the social changes that occur when agricultural land is converted to plantations in Australian rural communities. The research will help to identify the social changes arising from plantation establishment and will assist the forest industry and residents to live together in a harmonious relationship.

Tasmania has a working Good Neighbour Charter this charter provides a path way for tree farm plantation owners to explain to neighbouring landowners and the local community how the planning will be conducted for issues such as shading, pest management, fencing and fire.

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[5] *Living with Plantations*. CRC for Forestry. See http://www.crcforestry.com.au/view/index.aspx?id=65631.

Conclusion
TCA aspires to a philosophy of productive conservation which generates the highest high level of benefit in social economic and environmental terms, put simply our primary concern is for the continued growth in the economic and social well-being of rural communities that are dependent on the forest and wood based industries in Australia.

TCA Tasmania strongly supports the principle that all forests, whether in reserves or available for timber production, should be managed sustainably, taking into account all forest values – environmental, social and economic. The artificial separation of forests in "conservation" and "production" forests does not promote the development of truly sustainable forest management and will hinder our forest industry as it seeks to take advantage of emerging opportunities such as carbon markets.

Tasmania's forest and wood based industries can value add the natural resource many times over and address Australia's imbalance of trade of imported timber and products

But uncertainty over future access to resources is a major concern for the industry and its dependent regional communities. Changes in international markets, particularly for products such as woodchips, mean that the industry must look at new opportunities for investment to take advantage of developing markets that were not envisaged just a few years ago. Consideration towards advancing Rayon (a wood based product) as a new market opportunity is just one example.

At the same time our existing appearance grade hardwood, speciality timbers and rotary veneer sectors continue to hold their own in the market place, their significant recent investments made and pending are evidence that Tasmania's forest and wood based industries has the commitment to work through this present difficult period, but most important for being able to maintain that commitment, Tasmanian timber families need to know they can rely upon the continuation of sound Federal Government policy support.

Attachment

a. Fine Furniture Manufacturers-Launceston 2011 survey.
b. Meander TCA Newsletter (*Insult or Reward) April 2011*

FINE FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS – LAUNCESTON SURVEY 2011

BUSINESS NAME	TIMBER SPECIES	SUPPLIERS	MARKET	EMPLOYEES
CLIFTON FURNITURE	Blackwood Myrtle Tas Oak	Britton Brothers Tas Timber Specialists	30% Local market 70% Canberra, Sydney	15
TALL TIMBER FURNITURE	Blackwood Tas Oak Celery Top Pine Myrtle Sassafras Silver Wattle	Britton Brother Blue Tier Pughs Gunns Tas Timber Specialists	60% Local market 40 % Melbourne, Canberra	9
SP FURNITURE	Tas Oak Radiata Pine	Morgans Various	Local orders only	7
DESIGNS IN TIMBER	Blackwood Tas Oak	Britton Brothers Morgans	60% Local market 40% Melbourne, Sydney	7
TASMANIAN FINE FURNITURE	Handmade furniture	1 off designs special orders Local, National and International		1
TOLEDO FURNITURE *$1.4 million sales per annum ($560,000 interstate market)*	Blackwood Myrtle Sassafras Tas Oak	Britton Brothers Tas Timber Specialists Terry Groves Morgans Various	60% local market 40% Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra	15

BUSINESS NAME	TIMBER SPECIES	SUPPLIERS	MARKET	EMPLOYEES
TURNER BLACKWOOD FURNITURE	Blackwood 95% Myrtle Tas Oak Celery Top Pine	Britton Brothers Timber Land Pughs	90% local market 10% International Europe	13 *Plus 1 wood turner* *Plus 1 upholsterer* *2 days per week*
$1.5 million investment at the industrial complex Western Junction (in last 12 months) *$960,000 per annum ($96,000 international market)*				
CLASSIC DOORS ***Doors***	Tas Oak Myrtle Blackwood Celery Top Pine Wattle	Pughs Morgans Birtton Brothers Vanden Berg Blue Tier Tas Timber Specialists	100% local market	4 permanent 5 casual as required
Flooring and Lining	Tas Oak Myrtle Blackwood Wattle			
Doors supplied to cabinet makers and joiners for kitchen units, vanity units, built in robes, internal and external doors *Flooring and lining for the domestic and commercial market* *$425,000 per annum on doors only* *Over 50 businesses in the Launceston area are supplied by Classic Doors*				

TIMBER MERCHANT - LAUNCESTON

KA & VP PUGH	Blackwood Myrtle Tas Oak Silver Wattle	Gillespies Sawmill Walkers Sawmill Shane Rice Sawmill Neil Walters Sawmill Blue Tier Sawmill	30% local 70% National	6

Total number of employees = 78

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES IN THE LAUNCESTON AREA

Total number of employees for Business = 78 (from previous page)

However numbers need to be added to incorporate the employees from the sawmills which supply these businesses

13 sawmills with a conservative estimate of 7 employees per mill = 91 employees

Factor in businesses listed in the Launceston 2011 Yellow Pages Directory

26 Joinery
30 Kitchen, Bathroom and Bedroom Unit Manufacturers
8 Cabinet Makers

Making a total of 64 business

With a conservative estimate of 7 employees per business = 448 employees

Therefore total employee number in the Launceston area is 627

No included in this figure is:-

- the delivery to the sawmill
- the deliver from the sawmill to the timber merchant
- the delivery from the timber merchant to the manufacturer
- the delivery from the manufacturer to the retailer

If 627 employees are in Launceston, how many employees would there be when combined with Hobart Devonport and Burnie?

Prepared by R Stagg Timber Communities Australia

Meander Resource Management Group

Newsletter April 2011

INSULT OR REWARD

17 years ago this month the Meander Resource Management Group was formed to become part of the Forest Protection Society which became Timber Communities Australia. At that time the environment movement was focussing on the push to make a Great Western Tiers National Park, therefore, excluding all activities whether it be recreation or industry.

The Meander, Mole Creek, Caveside and Western Creek Communities have a long history of families who for generations have worked the forests, built and maintained walking tracks for hunting, fishing and bushwalking, which has become an integral part of the economic and cultural development of this area. What incensed these communities most was the creation of a National Park that would remove and rehabilitate roads, walking tracks, huts and all visible signs of human activity that were not in keeping with the “Green” agenda.

For the last 17 years activities which have been part of the social fabric of communities on the Northern Face of the Great Western Tiers has been able to continue.

Is this about to change?

A key point in the Forestry Statement of Principals is the creation of High Conservation Value (HCV) Forests. These areas of forest have been identified and marked on maps by the signatories of the environment (Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania, Australian Conservation Foundation) as worthy of reserve status and in the case of the Western Tiers—all current State Forest not in reserve to be National Park.

These same working forests of the Western Tiers have for the past 40 years been attacked by Parliamentarians (Booth, Milne, Brown), and single minded anti forestry activists with their endless campaign of misinformation and untruths, painting the picture that these forests have been “trashed” and “destroyed” for ever, but now all of a sudden these same working forests, by the same activists, are being labelled as “high conservation”, and a “National Park “icon.

How should those who have lived, worked and managed these forests take this?

As the ultimate insult or the ultimate reward.

RODNEY

Next Meeting

Monday 11th April 2011, **MEANDER MEMORIAL HALL**
commencing **7:30pm (Day Light Savings ended)**.
All members are welcome to attend.
A light supper will be provided after the meeting.