

Report concerning an
application from
Mr Evan Rolley for the
publication of a response to a
reference made in the House
of Representatives

House of Representatives
Committee of Privileges and Members' Interests



Membership of the Committee

Chair Mr Russell Broadbent MP

Deputy Chair Ms Anna Burke MP

Members

Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP

Mr Andrew Giles MP

Mr Dan Tehan (nominee of the Leader of the House)

Ms Clare O'Neil MP (nominee of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition)

Mr Graham Perrett MP

Mr Keith Pitt MP

Mr Tony Pasin MP

Hon Philip Ruddock MP

Mr Ross Vasta MP

Committee Secretariat

Secretary Ms Claressa Surtees

Research Officer Mr Stuart Woodley

Administrative Officers Ms Laura Gillies

- 1.1 Mr Evan Rolley has made an application, under the procedure adopted by the House on 27 August 1997, for the publication of a response to references made about him by Mr Andrew Wilkie MP, and contained in a document presented by Mr Wilkie at that time, on 4 June 2015 in the Federation Chamber.
- 1.2 The Committee considers Mr Rolley should be given a response and the terms of the response have been agreed by him and the Committee. A copy of the response is at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In agreeing to the response, the Committee notes, as required by the resolution of the House for a Right of Reply, that it has not considered or judged the truth of any statements made by Members in the House or by the person seeking a response.
- 1.4 The Committee recommends that a response by Mr Rolley (at Appendix 1) to references made about him, on 4 June 2015 in the Federation Chamber, be incorporated in Hansard.

MR RUSSELL BROADBENT MP
Chair
November 2015

Appendix 1

Response by Mr Evan Rolley to remarks made by the Member for Denison

On 4 June 2015 in the Federation Chamber, the Member for Denison, Mr Andrew Wilkie MP, made certain statements, and presented certain material, which adversely reflects on me.

The documents presented by Mr Wilkie were never discussed by him with me to check on any matters of fact. They contain numerous serious errors of fact, make defamatory references without foundation and are based on popular conspiracy theories. I reject the parts of the documents presented by Mr Wilkie which reflect on me and my reputation.

Forestry Tasmania and Ta Ann Tasmania have operated both ethically and legally in their commercial dealings that arose from a competitive expressions of interest process to develop value adding local manufacturing of previously exported hardwood woodchip logs in Tasmania.

Tasmania is the only state to now have a lower grade log recovery of thin hardwood veneers and modern local plywood manufacture for the Australian building and construction industries.

Wood supply agreements were backed by independently verified sustainable log supply reviews. None of the reviews have been shown to be wrong. External changes, influenced by the Global Financial Crisis, the high Aussie dollar, and Environmental Non-Government Organisations (ENGO) market attacks led to a new forest resource supply position in 2013 and changed operating conditions and sustainable log supplies.

Subsequent changes to wood supply contracts and agreements to protect more forests have required changes to business models and have been widely supported in the market place.

I personally remain, as always, willing to answer any questions on matters of fact raised in any parliamentary inquiry at any time.