

Letter to Editor

Thursday, February 24, 2005

Sir,

The outstanding success of the recent Australian Wooden Boat Festival has drawn attention once again to concerns from Tasmanian boat builders. They are seeing their resource of high quality boat building timbers, especially Celery Top Pine, prematurely felled and turned to ashes in the Forest Industry's continued rapid clear felling and burning of old growth forests.

Pulpwood and whole log exports are the focus of the current harvesting system (almost 90% of truck movements) offering little local value adding. The conversion of these forests to plantation and re-growth offers no hope for a future of value adding to a world-class timber resource that is only available from old growth forests.

Those areas set aside for high quality special timber management are grossly inadequate.

Similar concerns are echoed by the Tasmanian Beekeeping Industry who are desperately calling for a halt to the destruction of the remaining areas of Leatherwood rich forests in what are called Multiple Use Forests.

Timber Workers for Forests is a non-party independent group of concerned people, from within the timber industry, who support an ecologically and socially sustainable forestry industry - as promised but not yet delivered by the RFA. Tasmania needs a immediate change to low impact selective harvesting in old growth forests (less than 10% of all production forests) to allow future generations to benefit from properly managed production forests that all Tasmanians can be proud of.

Ian Johnston
President, Timber Workers for Forest
245 Howden Road
Howden
62671434