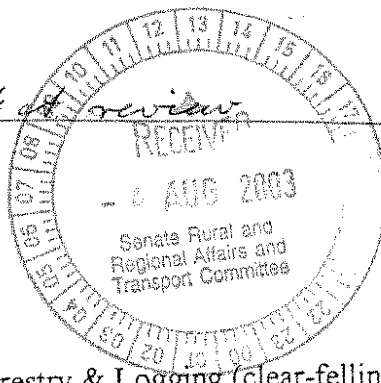


Submission to R.F. review

JULY 15 2002



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To the Acting Executive Officer,

In regard to Tasmanian Forestry & Logging (clear-felling equals environmental terrorism), It has to stop and stop now.

1. Coups cleared on the eastern flanks to the Blue Tier Reserve boundary, where hundreds of tree ferns, some nine metres tall and 0.92 meters in diameter have been pushed along with dozens of black heart sassafras etc, into the windrows to be burnt. It has to stop.
2. Southern side of Bells Hill some 43 years ago, I was shown by an old friend and logging contractor about twelve trees which you required a cut lunch to walk around any of them. Jan. 26th 2002, I went to check them out. Shock! Horror! I didn't know the area had only recently been terrorized. They'd gone. It has to stop.
3. Ringarooma Basin (Trenah) was terrorized 2 ½ years. Tree ferns, giant trees of which one stump remains, celery top pines, some over 1000 – 1500 years old, plus myrtles etc. pushed into windrows to be burnt. It has to stop.
4. Weld Hill. When the centre line was marked for the main logging road, there was a much larger tree than the 17-metre tree that Lesley Nicholson and her supporters fought to save. The road contractor was told to get rid of the huge tree on the centre line as soon as possible and rip the stump out. Forestry personnel were amazed when the 17-metre tree was brought to their attention. They didn't know it existed! What a joke!! It has to stop.
5. Fifteen years ago in the Mt Albert region, Forestry ordered a terrorist attack on a twenty seven-metre diameter tree. It was possibly the largest tree on the planet. It has to stop.
6. Chip logs condemned at the chip mill being carted back to where they came from. (Should have been sold to wood yard in Launceston etc.) On one occasion, closer to Anson's Bay than Pioneer, where a woodcutter agreed to pay Forestry Tasmania \$5000 for the logs. A few weeks later, the coupe was burnt plus the \$5000 worth of firewood logs. No wonder Forestry Tas. is in financial trouble. It has to stop.
7. Price agreed to with Forestry Tas. Prior to firewood logs being stockpiled at Ringarooma Basin coupe. Before stockpile complete Forestry Tas. increase price. Contractor would not accept increased price. Locals soon learn about firewood logs being stockpiled and commence cutting firewood, evenings and weekends. Forestry Tas. Deliberately burn firewood logs stockpiled. It has to stop.
8. Not to mention the terrorism of some creeks and waterways on all terrorized coupes. It has to stop.
9. Forestry Commission policy succeeded in closing all small sawmills which employed a lot of people. (In 1924 there were twenty four sawmills in the Ringarooma Municipality. In the 1950's there were five in the Ringarooma valley and still should be one. The small saw mills, saw log recovery rate was 60% plus. The large automated sawmill at Western Junction's recovery rate was, and probably still is 29%, which means good saw log waste, finish up as chips.
Forty years ago I suggested to the Forestry Commission that they should plant Stringy Bark, Blackwood and Silver Wattle plantations for saw logs. It should still be done today.
The deliberate splitting of sawlogs with machines to make up chip quotas. It has to stop.
It won't be many years and there will be a shortage of sawlogs.
10. The 18-metre tree recently found by Forestry Tas. In the Florentine is not the largest known tree in Tasmania, as there is a 22-meter gum tree in the Ringarooma area, which only two people know the exact location and there is also a fifteen-meter Myrtle in the same area.

Also in the Ringarooma area, we have a Myrtle tree with a 10.95 metre diameter and a 27-meter spread.

Greenies chain themselves to trees and machines, spike and climb trees, etc, etc and are more often than not against many and varied developments in the first instance without first doing their homework.

Constipationists, well we all know what they do!

Conservationists generally are conscientious, considerate and compassionate people who care for the environment and are prepared to stand up and negotiate for a more balanced outcome on many issues, so many generations, yet unborn, will be able to view, appreciate and enjoy nature's marvels for their unknown lifetime on this planet.

I am over 60 years of age. I am not a greenie or Constipationist. I am a conservationist, like the majority. In 1980 my plan to declare Mt Victoria Reserve was presented to the Government (through the Ringarooma Progress and Development League, of which I am the founder and still president since 1979) by Mrs Gill James. I was told by the local Bass Forestry boss (John Snodgrass) that we would get a Reserve over his dead body! The Mt Victoria Forest Reserve was gazetted June 1983.

The whole area and surrounds of Mt Victoria were planned to be terrorized prior to 1980, which I was aware of. John Snodgrass did not know that I was aware of these plans and still doesn't know to this day. Forestry Tas. would now dispute those plans.

The R.P.D.L. over 19 years fought petty small minded professional bureaucratic obstructionists conducting 65 working bees involving some 595 men, women and children (some of those years were dormant), completing and connecting the 1930's abandoned road to Pyengana. Constructing walking tracks, car parking areas and a lookout at Tasmania's highest single drop waterfall, and building a picnic shelter. The area of wilderness is now a major North East Tourism icon. (PS Forestry Tas. Finally built a compost toilet)

I have spent a lot of time in the bush repairing machines, supplying fuel and pulled selected logs with a dozer (1960's) The way it is done now is not world's best practice. I know several machine operators etc, Forestry Tas. Employees, who do not agree with what is happening and what they have had to do but like everyone else they have to eat. Eighteen months ago, Canada finally learned from their mistakes and banned clear felling of old growth forests and has reverted to selective logging.

A brief explanation. In January, Forestry Tasmania received ISO14001- world's best environmental practice accreditation. Following four phone calls I finally located the person responsible for this accreditation who refused free travel & accommodation to inspect points-1,2,3,4, 8, & 9. The reason being the accreditation would have to be withdrawn.

Why does the government continue to push tourism, as the tourists we talk to (They come from all over the world to see our collection) ask, "What's wrong with you Tasmanians, when is all this clear felling going to stop?" My reply is, 'You're talking to the wrong person', and discussions continue at length on the subject.

Tasmania's greatest asset is its natural beauty but I am afraid our Premier and deputy premier can't see the tourists for the trees.

I could write a manuscript on the subject, I think I should close.

Yours sincerely

Norm Brown.



Address To R.F.C. Review Board. Henry House Hon

Aug 5 - 2002

Firstly I want to make it quite clear I am not against the timber industry I like many others including many from the industry itself who do not agree with the way in which its being + not being done + the govt is not creating that it should be creating our business 36 years. 105 years.

1960 Kingal St Mary's coal mines closed work was created clear felling thousands of acres. firewood + mill logs wasted + are still lying there the pines have recently been clear fell + the original logs should now be salvaged for firewood thousands of tons

1981 Kamona clear fell local saw mills had rubbish delivered good logs left + burnt. Large pines 1960's Forestry Dept would not allow road to be built. to retrieve pines 2-3 hectares were fell + left. French Pine were eventually sold they could recover by which time they were no good as blue mould had set in Forestry minister refused to be shown both instances

1979 Kingarooma to Pyengana road logs were not allowed to be salvaged by Richards for their mill myrtle sassafras + caleytop pine new road upper Bird logs should be recovered as with all new roads been going on since 1960

clearfelling in some instances takes too much young timber i.e. future mill logs.

Pristine rainforest is at this moment being clear felled huge gum + myrtle are being blown up to fall them some pushed into windrows some recovered some trees fall are rotten in the middle + are not suitable for woodchip but would cut good timber but instead are left + wasted reclassified streams to class four

Trees with a ^{39.37 ft} 12 meter circumference ^{12.530 ft} 3.819 m diameter should be kept as a viewable icon as the redwoods in America are which I have seen in California

I would like to ask each one of you would you hope for your great great etc grand children to be able to visit these huge trees to try + comprehend + appreciate just how old they are + what stage planet earth was at when they started to grow + realize just how short a period we individual humans occupy this planet for.
in the old Victoria Reserve we have belemnite
sop pines which are around 780 years old.

The amount of firewood plus other timbers on all clear felled areas that is being wasted is beyond belief. If a coupe is to be clear felled all Blackwood Blackheart Musk etc logs + stumps plus tree ferns should be harvested first + be processed locally (exported?) how many extra jobs would this create machines plus bullocks + or horses could be used (over)

for this recovery it is still done in America

pine logs + hardwood wasted left behind on virtually all clear fell coupes.

1988 60000 dollars wasted on a burn + regeneration coupe had to be done again

none productive Forestry has employes in wheel drives nothing more than a glorified work for the dole scheme ministers only know what they are for.

stage 35

From observations it is obvious very little or nothing is being done on regenerated coupes in regard to spraying ragwort etc plus the uncontrolled germination of radiata pines on roadsides outside plantations (lectares of fore gloves.)

what happened to Forestry has 1991 visual impact policy because if ordinary people did the things that are being done by Forestry has they would be charged fined + or jailed

At the thorne Ringarooma Leyenwood valley visible from dasman byway visitors horrified

last monday night July 29 four corners program on illegal logging in Indonesia it was stated irreparable harm being done + only when exposed will changes be made not much different here what happened to biodiversity

not my terminology

mainland contractors can't believe how its done in Tas

Industry duty of care issue

log trucks travelling so fast + in convoy loaded + empty (roller coaster) engine brakes blast residents out of their homes all hours, not all drivers (this situation has improved since review

The damage being done to roads from loads. That they were not originally built to carry

Forestry has a bit like Doctors they bury + burn their mistakes.

Pine logs to Korea \$2.00 per ton at the stump this would not cover costs to plant

When the Star of Peace area was burnt ^{1970 approx} (no clearfell) I was present when five top brass from Forestry + Tas. Lobart arrived to inspect the area (hundreds of acres of boulders) His (unprintable) brain wave was it to plant this area with pines. was the response with all heads shaking in disbelief.

The biggest percentage of these trees when harvested were of poor quality some are still standing + may never be harvested rocky knolls are still being offered up + exposed ANF.P.C. NO NO

The Forest Practise Code is not being adhered to + if it was not so serious it would be a good joke

I can elaborate more on all these citations which are divulged in the strictest of confidence for very good reason twelve million dollars of good reason development. ~~MBrown~~