



Tasmania

PREMIER

25 NOV 2003

Mr. T. Miyoshi
President
Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd
C/- Mr. F. Manoshiro
General Manager, Forestry Dept
Shin Yurakucho Building
1-12-1 Yurakucho
Tokyo 100-0006

Dear Mr Miyoshi

I am aware you and some of your customers have recently been given some misleading information about the management of Tasmanian forests by Greenpeace and the Australian Wilderness Society.

I am disappointed this campaign has continued after the Deputy Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Paul Lennon MHA, wrote in detail a few months ago to Greenpeace Japan, correcting the errors in the information they have been disseminating.

I recently visited Japan where I had the pleasure of opening Toshinobu Takeuchi's photographic exhibition of Tasmania.

In this exhibition Mr Takeuchi has captured Tasmania's essence and put it on show in a way that will generate increasing interest within Japan.

Many of the photographs depict Tasmania's forests and our famous World Heritage Areas and National Parks that have protected over forty per cent of Tasmania forever

Tasmanian forests are managed on a sustainable basis under a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) with the Australian Government. This agreement provides for the great majority of old growth forest and wilderness areas in the State to be fully protected.

The Regional Forest Agreement was signed after a two year process of full community consultation and scientific analysis.

Environmental groups such as the Wilderness Society were part of that consultation process.

Their views however, represent a small minority of Tasmanians, whereas the RFA represented the broader Tasmanian community views.

The Tasmanian Government has met and negotiated with green groups, including the Wilderness Society, many times over more than 20 years over forestry issues, and agreed to many of their requests. However, we have learnt they are never satisfied, and have no willingness to compromise.

Their objective is the complete closure of the native forest industry, and they will use any tactics and misinformation to reach this objective. They have approached Japanese woodchip and paper customers because they have not been able to achieve all their objectives through the available channels in Australia.

The Tasmanian Government is fully committed to supporting the forest industry as a key element of the State's economy.

I believe that the Australian Government also shares this commitment.

The primary commitment to the industry is through full support of the RFA and through legislation for a guaranteed provision of 300,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and veneer logs each year from State forest to domestic processors on a sustainable basis.

Harvesting these logs, and regenerating these forests for future sawlog production, inevitably generates pulpwood. Prior to the development of the woodchip export industry in the early 1970s much of this material was burnt in the forest.

Now this wood is harvested to the great economic benefit of the Tasmanian and Japanese communities. The wood will continue to be produced even if Japanese buyers do not take the wood. Therefore green groups placing pressure on buyers in Japan will not affect the way Tasmanian forests are managed.

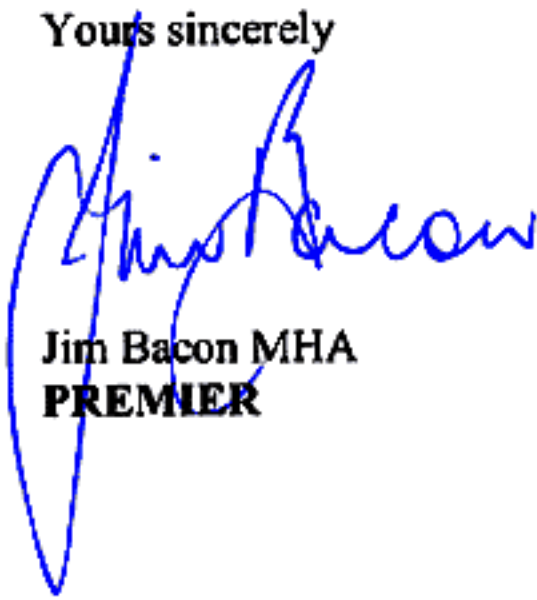
Green groups have every opportunity to continue to put their views through the democratic process in Tasmania.

If I felt that some constructive outcome would result, I would be happy to meet with green groups, but past experience has proved such discussions to be fruitless. Having said that, I wish to make it abundantly clear that the issue of how Tasmania's forests are managed is, and should remain, entirely a Tasmanian issue and needs to be dealt with here in Tasmania.

There has been a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between Tasmania and major Japanese pulp and paper companies for over 30 years. This relationship has the strongest support of the Tasmanian Government. The Regional Forest Agreement process was intended in part to underpin this relationship. My government will not be influenced by minority groups intent on disrupting this relationship by distributing misinformation.

I am pleased to extend to you or your representative, an invitation to visit Tasmania to see for yourself our world-class forest management systems that we have in place for the protection and sustainable use of our forests. I would be most pleased to arrange full briefings and inspections for you at any time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Bacon". The signature is stylized and written over a large, light blue oval shape that serves as a background or underline.

Jim Bacon MHA
PREMIER