

8 March 2011

Mr Bill Kelty
Facilitator for
Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles to lead to an Agreement
c/- Joel Bowden
Linfox House
Level 3,
493 St Kilda Road
Melbourne, 3004



Florentine Protection Society

Patron: Steve Biddulph

Dear Mr. Kelty,

We are writing to you to urge your support for the implementation of the Moratorium scheduled to commence on 15 March 2011.

The Florentine Protection Society is a member of Environment Tasmania, one of the environmental N.G.O.s which are party to the historic Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles. The Florentine Protection Society has amongst its objects –

- (a) To preserve, conserve and protect old growth forests situated in Tasmania, including the forests of the Upper Florentine Valley, for the benefit of the community.
- (b) To preserve and protect native fauna and flora whose natural habitat is Tasmanian old growth forests, including those fauna and flora living in the Upper Florentine Valley.
- (c) To educate the public about Tasmania's natural environment and environmental issues, particularly in relation to old growth forests.
- (d) To protect and promote the environmental, social, cultural and economic qualities of old growth forests in Tasmania, including the old growth forests of the Upper Florentine Valley.
- (e) To educate the public about wise use of Tasmanian resources, including high conservation value forests.
- (f) To support the activities of other groups with like objects to the Association, such as organisations which conserve Tasmania's natural environment or national parks.

We urge you to take note of the following points :

1. As a member of one of the parties to the Statement of Principles we were fully briefed on final discussions and negotiations before we endorsed that Statement. We wish to stress to you that *the moratorium was an integral part of the Statement*. It is not something which Bryan Green can just talk away and pretend it never happened.
2. Tasmania has been polarised by the forestry debate for about 30 years now. We hope that the implementation of the moratorium will bring that phase of our history to an end. The cycle of environmental destruction and degradation, loss of habitat for our wild-life, mindless wrecking of eco-systems, and loss of carbon stores, etc., can cease if the parties to the Statement of Principles all honour its terms. We now have a

historic opportunity to move into a new era of sustainable forestry practices.

3. There is no social licence for the current pulp mill proposal. We are most concerned that issues around the pulp mill are being linked to this agreement. You will no doubt be aware of current discussion informally that Gunns need to keep the pulp mill proposal "alive" so that their bottom line does not reflect a "loss" on the basis of cumulative expenditure on the mill proposal. One outcome of this lack of transparency is that there is not a proper open debate on the real issues, including Gunns' options for their contracts if there is no government buyout.
4. This in turn means that there is a lack of trust in relation to possible future actions by Gunns, the State Government, and Forestry Tasmania. At best there is a "smoke and mirrors" approach designed to protect Gunns' financial interests, and at worst there is an agenda to undermine this agreement through deliberate mis-interpretation of what has been agreed.

We hope that as you have been appointed to a position of independent arbitrator on some of these issues that you take these points into consideration to ensure that the Statement of Principles and the subsequent agreement being developed is honoured in both deed and spirit and that the moratorium takes effect as scheduled.

Yours sincerely,



Austra Maddox
Vice President (Florentine Protection Society Inc.)