



Florentine Protection Society

Patron: Steve Biddulph

The Honourable Ruth Forrest
Parliament House
Hobart 7000

17 August 2011

Dear Ms Forrest

The Florentine Protection Society is very concerned about the prospect of the forest agreement failing to achieve its intended outcomes.

It is vital that the Intergovernmental Agreement be passed in full, giving protection to forests at the same time as exit packages are paid to contractors. Anything less will not achieve peace in the forests.

Realising the need for a peace deal that would transition the forestry industry from a financial and social failure to a sustainable and profitable concern, the industry and union asked to meet with conservationists for this process to begin. To now turn this into a political football dishonours the good work of all involved in the talks and those in our communities who are suffering and wishing to exit the industry with dignity and their lives and families intact.

Cherry picking certain aspects will waste the 8 months of mediation and hard work by the signatories of the Statement of Principles, and the following 8 months of the Kely process involving wider negotiation. Failure will mean ongoing protests from conservationists and increasing division in the community which would not be of economic or social benefit to Tasmania.

Failure will also result in the rescinding of promised funding for regional development, an integral part of ensuring Tasmania's future prosperity.

It is therefore hoped that you will support this agreement and do your best to see that the agreed outcomes are achieved. Anything less will be failing the people of Tasmania.

Jo McRae

Florentine Protection Society