

PO Box 1386  
Launceston TAS 7250

December 4, 2009

Operations Manager  
Gunns Limited – Plantation Division  
PO Box 985  
Launceston TAS 7250

## **RE: AERIAL SPRAYING AT TIMOTHY PLANTATION**

Dear Mr Wilson,

As per recent phone conversations regarding your letter dated November 30, 2009 (File: 90.82.0045 / Ref: TR196a) you would be aware that I have serious concerns with the proposed actions to aerial spray the Timothy coupe (East Diddleum Road).

Following further review of the geographic area, I request that all plans to spray this plantation with Dominex Duo & Bond are immediately and permanently disbanded, for the following reasons:

- a) there are significant streams and water courses throughout the Timothy Plantation which form part of the water catchment area that directly feeds into the St. Patrick's River (as per attached map I) and onto Launceston's water supply. It is clear that should this area be sprayed with Dominex Duo & Bond the result will be contamination of Launceston's drinking water with a chemical that the MSDS expressly states : **“Do NOT contaminate dams, rivers or streams, or any other water bodies with pesticide or used containers”**<sup>1</sup>.
- b) the Timothy plantation is bounded by significant reserves including (as per attached map): a Scenic Reserve; a Calverley Regional Forest Agreement CAR Reserve; and a Flora Reserve, and as such the whole area demands protection from insecticides and other forestry chemicals. I am concerned that there are no cleared buffer zones between agreed boundaries and it is stipulated in the covenants for these Reserves that there are to be no pesticides or chemical use.
- c) Existence within these watercourse areas of the Engaeus (the Burrowing Crayfish), of which 13 of the 15 species exist only within Tasmania<sup>2</sup>. It is clearly stated that this chemical is **“dangerous to fish and aquatic invertebrates such as yabbies. Do NOT contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with chemical or used containers”**<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.agtech.com.au/e-Chemseek/default.asp?V\\_DOC\\_ID=1002&function=SearchResults&CompanyID=275295&AlphaGroup=D&GroupBy=NAME&PestGenie=Y&MasterTypeID=0&SearchType=All](http://www.agtech.com.au/e-Chemseek/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=1002&function=SearchResults&CompanyID=275295&AlphaGroup=D&GroupBy=NAME&PestGenie=Y&MasterTypeID=0&SearchType=All)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LJEM-73J92W?open>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.sacoa.com.au/upload/research/DOMINEX\\_\\_DUO\\_.pdf](http://www.sacoa.com.au/upload/research/DOMINEX__DUO_.pdf)

I draw your attention to these additional facts:

1) The plan provided to me (the Neighbour Notification Plan) indicates that the original plantation area was planned to respect streamside boundaries/water courses. In actual fact, a number of these water courses were cleared of original vegetation and planted. In areas of steep gullies this has caused notable erosion, no doubt contributing to broader problems of siltation in the St. Patricks River. These planted water courses are presumably now included in the area to be sprayed. The extent of planting over drainage lines is clearly visible in the attached Google Map.

2) There are remaining water courses and streamside reserves that were respected in the Harvesting Plan. However, I am unable to understand how, in the context of aerial spraying, that these water courses/reserves will be protected from the damaging and toxic non-selective impacts of Dominex Duo & Bond. I remind you of the toxicity of these chemical to fish and aquatic life.

I request that this letter is dealt with as a matter of urgency and am advising all relevant authorities of my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Calverley**

0419 333 019

Cc: Kim Booth, MP, Tasmanian Greens  
David Bartlett, Premier  
Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for the Environment  
Barry Cash, CEO, Ben Lomond Water  
Frank Dixon, General Manager, Launceston City Council