



*Protecting, Promoting & Restoring Australia's WildCountry*

Mr Bob Gordon,  
Managing Director,  
Forestry Tasmania,  
Hobart.

24 February 2007

Dear Mr Gordon,

### **DISCUSSION OVER KEY FOREST-MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

We understand from a brief email from Steve Whiteley and subsequent media reports that you intend to offer the Wilderness Society an opportunity to meet with you to discuss protests in Tasmania's oldgrowth forests.

The Wilderness Society already has a healthy dialogue with Forestry Tasmania over the protests we carry out in publicly owned forests. As you would be aware, the Wilderness Society did organise a protest walk through threatened forests in the Upper Florentine on the Australia Day holiday. Forestry Tasmania was informed of this event one week in advance; no contractors were present on that day; and our intention was always to pass through the logging coupe peacefully and quickly. The police were notified before the event and there have been no subsequent complaints from Forestry Tasmania or the contractors over this protest event. Despite this, the Wilderness Society is prepared to further develop dialogue with Forestry Tasmania on this issue.

However, we also believe that it is necessary to address the underlying reasons for the current protests that are occurring in Tasmania's forests. We therefore request that any such meeting also discuss the following:

- **Forestry Tasmania's use of taxpayers' funds to build new logging roads and carry out modified clearfelling in oldgrowth forests and wilderness areas of World Heritage value.** As you know, Forestry Tasmania is using millions of dollars of taxpayer funds on forestry operations in the Styx, Weld, Florentine and other forests. If such forestry operations are not financially viable in their own right, why should the taxpayer prop them up? It is objectionable to us that taxpayers' funds should be used to destroy forests – such as the Florentine oldgrowth forests – that the Prime Minister promised to protect.
- **Forestry Tasmania's destruction of the habitat of rare and threatened species, which is driving threatened species closer to extinction.** As you know, the Wielangta decision found that Forestry Tasmania was not protecting relevant rare and threatened species in the forestry operations under consideration. It quoted evidence by expert witnesses saying that the risk of extinction of certain species increases as forestry operations continue. While Governments may be grasping for legal remedies to the Wielangta decision, the key fact prevails – that is, Forestry Tasmania's operations are further jeopardising rare and threatened species.

The Wilderness Society (Tasmania) Inc.  
130 Davey Street, Hobart Tasmania 7000 AUSTRALIA  
T: 03 6224 1550 F: 03 6223 5112 E: tasmania@wilderness.org.au  
[www.wilderness.org.au](http://www.wilderness.org.au)

The Wilderness Society Shop, Shop 8 Galleria, 33 Salamanca Place, Hobart 7000 T: 03 6234 9370

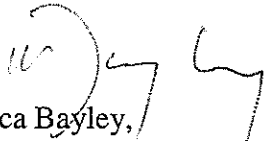
- **Forestry Tasmania's exacerbation of climate change.** The destruction of forests and the burning of the mangled remains of our forests after logging are Tasmania's biggest contributor to climate change. The maintenance of the massive stores of carbon in our ancient forests is a crucial means of combating climate change.

The Wilderness Society considers that the most appropriate location for this meeting is in the threatened oldgrowth forests themselves – in particular, logging coupe FO44A in the Upper Florentine.

The Wilderness Society would also like to inform you that we have not participated in the protests that you refer to in your media release and subsequent media reports. You should therefore directly approach the conservationists who are carrying out the forest-based protests about which you hold concerns. Appropriate representatives of these protests are on the public record and are published on their media releases. I understand you also served summons on several people of interest to you in the Weld Valley. The Wilderness Society cannot act as a de facto representative of them in any meeting with Forestry Tasmania.

We note that you have encouraged media coverage of the proposed meeting by releasing details to The Mercury. I wish to do you the courtesy of informing you that we have taken the liberty of forwarding this letter to media contacts and would propose that the meeting is open to them.

Yours sincerely,



Vica Bayley,  
Tasmanian Forest Campaigner,  
The Wilderness Society (Tasmania) Inc.