

C- PO Box 250  
Lilydale, Tas 7268

Hon David Llewellyn, MP  
Level 1, Public Buildings,  
Franklin Square,  
HOBART 7000

Friday, 22 January 2010

Dear Minister Llewellyn

**Re: Urgent Request for Minister to intervene to suspend certification of Forest Practices Plan (MJF0189-01) – 186 Mountain Rd, Lilydale**

I write to you with great urgency in regard to the imminent certification of a Forest Practices Plan (MJF0189-01) for proposed clearfelling and plantation development at 186 Mountain Rd, Lilydale.

A community meeting of over one hundred Lilydale residents (26<sup>th</sup> November 2009) passed a number of motions opposing proposed forest practices on this high risk coupe, particularly on the grounds of likely impacts to Lilydale's town water supply and community road safety issues (for your information please see attached letter in regard to road safety issues). The Lilydale Progress Association, Lilydale Protection Group and Mt Arthur Environment Management Group all recently passed motions opposing the proposal on similar grounds.

The clearfelling and plantation is proposed on a 246 acre private block that is immediately upstream of Lilydale's town water intake and includes critical areas of Rocky Creek and the water catchment for the supply. The Rocky Creek catchment is only small and in a largely pristine condition. Launceston City Council (LCC) staff noted that if the whole coupe were harvested, this would amount to 20.5% of the whole Rocky Creek catchment! The proponent has indicated they reserve the right to undertake aerial spraying of pesticides, even through the coupe is only one hundred metres upstream of the water intake. The coupe is in LCC's Scenic Protection Zone, Water Catchment Protection Zone and Area of Regional Significance Zone.

LCC and Ben Lomond Water (BLW) have both written to the Forest Practices Authority (FPA) expressing concern about impacts on water quality, from both erosion and chemicals, and reduced water flows into Lilydale's town water intake. LCC staff have calculated that water flow at the intake could be reduced by more than 16% and suggested that Rocky Creek could dry up after plantation establishment. Council indicated to the FPA that it wished to undertake its own independent hydrological study. BLW wrote (8.11.09) that they were "concerned that the operations may adversely impact on the available water resource" and that they wished to "understand all possible implications on the water supply scheme before any forestry operations begin".

No public authority has been able to provide information demonstrating that there will be no impact from the plantation on water flows, available at the Rocky Creek intake. There have also been no assurances that the water supply will be safe from pesticide pollution due to aerial spraying. On the contrary, the available information and research suggests that there will be impacts. The draft Forest Practices Plan fails to make any reference to these issues. While LCC took the first steps in determining impacts, they have now referred the issue to BLW. Residents have been very disappointed with BLW's lack of response, inaction in assessing impacts and refusal to accept responsibility for Lilydale's water. It would appear that there is now no public authority interested in taking responsibility for Lilydale's water supply.

Residents have now been advised that the Forest Practices Plan will be certified in the next few days. It is totally unacceptable that this plan be certified without a full understanding of the likely impacts on water flow or availability for our town supply.

On this basis, we implore you to immediately intervene to suspend certification of the Forest Practices Plan MJF0189-01 until full hydrological studies are undertaken by an independent and suitably qualified specialists, and made available to the Lilydale community. We also request you require an analysis of likely impacts of chemicals to be used during plantation operations to determine the health risks to residents downstream from the coupe.

Yours Sincerely

Anthony Ross

Concerned Residents of Mt Arthur

A subcommittee of Lilydale Protection Group.

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