

STATEMENT FROM THE TASMANIAN GREENS PARLIAMENTARIANS

**To the Forests Rally, Executive
Building, 15 March 2011**



T a s m a n i a

Dear friends of the forests,

Due to Parliament sitting at the moment, we are unable to attend this rally today, and instead have sent this message of support.

As you would be aware, the Greens are not signatories to the Forests Principles of Agreement, and therefore are not part of the current process. However, we do recognise that it took immense good faith by all participants to forge these Principles last year, and it is by maintaining that good faith and co-operation that we could see great things achieved for our forests.

Mr Kelty's announcement last week does not constitute the moratorium which was originally agreed in the Principles of Agreement. The Greens believe that the full moratorium could, and should, have been implemented by today, and we urge its full implementation immediately.

This morning in Question Time we sought details regarding whether in the last three months Forestry Tasmania has made any sales, or entered into any contracts for the sale of any product that may be sourced from HCV areas. We also asked about road construction or planning works carried out in HCV areas in the last three months, when the moratorium should have been implemented.

The Minister was unable to provide details but did undertake to find out and provide that information to the House.

And of course the Greens will never support Gunns' proposed pulp mill in the Tamar Valley.

The ongoing process around the Principles gives us a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to protect our high conservation value forests, and have a transition to a sustainable timber industry. To achieve this, good will and good faith from both sides must be maintained, and the first meaningful and essential step is the promised moratorium being in place. A full moratorium that is implemented and respected by all parties.

For the forests,

**Greens Leader Nick McKim MP, and Greens Forestry spokesperson Kim Booth MP, on behalf
of the Tasmanian Greens Party.**