

Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts

ARTS TASMANIA

146 Elizabeth Street, Hobart 7000 TAS Australia
Ph (03) 6233 7308 Fax (03) 6233 8424
Email arts.tasmania@arts.tas.gov.au Web www.arts.tas.gov.au



2 November 2011

Mr George Harris
44 Strickland Ave
SOUTH HOBART TAS 7004
Via email georgeharris854@hotmail.com

Dear Mr Harris

I am responding to your letter of 26 October 2011, emailed to Steve Kyne, the Deputy Director of Arts Tasmania, to pass onto the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board (TAAB). I understand that Mr Kyne advised you that due to the very short notice it would not be possible to add your letter to the agenda of the TAAB meeting held on 27 October 2011.

Arts Tasmania is aware in broad terms of the issues you raise in relation to access to special species timbers for Tasmanian arts, crafts and design. Arts Tasmania has not been included in any of the negotiations around the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on Forests.

Arts Tasmania has sought to advocate for and protect the interests of artists and arts organisations in these discussions. We have provided informal advice to the Premier through her arts adviser and to the Office of the Prime Minister that any reduction in access to special species timber could impact the broader arts, crafts and design sector in Tasmania. Arts Tasmania noted in this advice that it was not only wood design that might be affected; of course there are a number of crafts and arts practices that while not reliant on timber directly, are sold and promoted through craft outlets such as the Design Centre, whose primary attraction to visitors is fine timber. The Design Centre Shop for example derives 50% of its retail revenue from timber-based sales; and once people are "hooked" into visiting the centre, sales have expanded into other areas of craft and design such as ceramics, textiles and jewellery. The Arts Tasmania COLLECT Art Purchase Scheme strongly supports retail sales of craft and design. Arts Tasmania would be concerned that if there were to be a reduction in special species timber access and production, the broader craft and design sector, not just timber artisans, would also suffer.

Arts Tasmania has urged the Premier's Office and the Office of the Prime Minister to take into consideration the submissions made by artists, designers, arts organisations and peak bodies in Tasmania on this matter, including Fine Timber Tasmania, the Furniture Designers' Association, the Design Centre Tasmania and of course your submission.

I must advise you that the issues raised in your letter are outside the purview of the TAAB, although I have verbally informed the TAAB members of your concerns. I have discussed your letter with the Chair of the TAAB, who acknowledges the limits of the board's role in this area, but will communicate these concerns to the Premier in similar terms.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Hough
Director