

Wednesday 19 August 2015

MOTION
Forestry Tasmania - Logging at Lapoinya

[5.06 p.m.]

Ms DAWKINS (Bass - Motion) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That the House:

- (1) Notes -
 - (a) with regret that Forestry Tasmania -FT - is still intent on logging Coupe FD053 at Lapoinya in the state's north-west; and
 - (b) that objection by the Tasmanian community at the determination of FT to level the native forest at Lapoinya is ongoing and gaining momentum, with another public meeting held as recently as 15-16 August 2015.
- (2) Acknowledges that although the coupe is home to the giant freshwater lobster, listed as 'vulnerable' in accordance with the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 and 'endangered' in accordance with the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species, that no *astacopsis gouldisurvey* has been conducted to establish the presence, or otherwise, of the lobster.
- (3) Recognises further that the coupe is also home to the burrowing crayfish, masked owl and platypus.
- (4) Further acknowledges that -
 - (a) studies need to be conducted to establish the existence of Tasmanian devil habitat and Aboriginal artefact zones;
 - (b) a carbon audit has been undertaken at the coupe and that to leave it standing would result in an estimated carbon value of \$4 000 per hectare; and
 - (c) the estimations made in accordance with the carbon counting has identified that clear felling the coupe will result in a cash loss of \$1 000 per hectare, an accounting loss of \$5 000 per hectare and a total social loss equating to approximately \$8 000 per hectare.

(5) Calls for -

- (a) the Minister for Resources, Mr Paul Harriss MP, to urgently undertake his duty of care as a shareholder minister and ensure FT complete all relevant surveys and studies to identify the existence of endangered and vulnerable species and Aboriginal heritage;
- (b) the Minister for Resources to liaise with FT and identify the reasons, in light of the obvious losses associated with clear-felling the coupe, why the agency is so intent on logging this particular coupe; and
- (c) the Minister for Resources to immediately direct FT to cease any plans for logging operations in this coupe while studies, surveys and audits are undertaken.

I have risen today to continue talking about saving Lapoinya. I wish to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of a small but dedicated group of people called FLAG, who are continuing to fight for this little piece of paradise in the north-west.

Lapoinya is home to a healthy population of devils and to the giant freshwater crayfish, and other vulnerable species. A 2010 report from the Department of Primary Industries and Water valued habitat protection as a measure to ensure the ongoing survival of the species, along with burrowing crayfish, masked owl and platypus who all make the forest their home.

The fact that there is a healthy population of devils should be enough to ring alarm bells throughout the nation that their natural habitat is under threat. Our precious, unique native wildlife diseased in most other places and fighting for survival is healthy and facial tumour free in Lapoinya. Nick Mooney, a specialist in Tasmanian devil habitat, has called Lapoinya a veritable highway for the devil.

There is also threatened flora in the coupe, such as brooker gums and slender tree ferns and they have not yet been properly audited for review. Reserves of them will have to be retained, significantly reducing the area to be logged and thus reducing financial viability of the project.

There is a lot of talk in Tasmania about selective logging for specialty timber. This coupe has a lot of immature special timber trees - myrtle, celery top pine, sassafras and blackwoods all excellent potential for future selective logging for furniture making. This previously sensitive logged coupe houses mature and old

growth eucalypts along with juveniles which create a unique maturation mix, which houses unusual biodiversity.

We have been advised that Minister Harriss consistently ignores community concerns, refusing to attend meetings or even to respond. How on earth will FT ever manage FSC? There is a clear requirement for social licence under FSC and at this point no chance of obtaining it.

Losses would be sustained by Forestry Tasmania should they log the coupe; a GBE that is already sustained through continual injections of funds from the public purse. Roads and structures alone would cost \$90 000 and post-harvest regeneration is costed at \$51 000. Once wages of \$170 000 for two FTEs - that is all, just two FTEs are paid - the expenses alone are over \$300 000. The estimated revenue from 12 500 tonnes of timber from the coupe is around \$250 000 so that does not add up. I have a background in small business and I know a good deal from a bad one and that is a bad deal.

Lapoinya is over 60-years-old. It is a place of recreation and refuge for the community. Children have been raised in an idyllic setting close to the coupe, riding horses and roaming in the native bushland, instilling in them a deep sense of attachment to place and the love of the Tasmanian bush. Those people and many like them go out to spread the word of the beauty of our natural environment and people in the world listen. We have seen the rise in tourist numbers and we need this to continue.

Many people do not come to Tasmania to visit our cities or towns, for they are replicated throughout the post-industrialised world in one form or another, but they do come here to see our wild and natural spaces and Lapoinya is one of them. Allowing the logging of this coupe is not just financially irresponsible but it drives a wedge within the community. It pits those who are fearful for their financial future against those who value the natural world and derive recreation from its ongoing protection. It is not a large coupe. It will not bring big dividends to the Government but it will make the point that this Government cares more about the outdated dig-it-up economic model than the heartfelt connection to place for a community.

The ongoing problem as I see it is that FT has the inability to connect with the community and seek social licence on its logging projects and there also seems to be little risk management taking place. The value to the community of cessation of logging far outweighs any perceived benefit to FT of logging the coupe. Lapoinya and the community which continues to advocate for its protection demands to be listened to. Their last public meeting saw hundreds of people come together to add numbers to their cause and until reason prevails and the coupe is saved, they will have our voice.

[5.12 p.m.]

Mr HARRISS (Franklin - Minister for Resources) - Madam Speaker, before commencing my contribution to this motion I would like to congratulate the member for Franklin, Ms Woodruff, on her election to the seat vacated by Mr McKim and wish her the best.

Ms Woodruff - Thank you.

Mr HARRISS - I think the member for Denison shares the view that we are happy to have Ms Woodruff here and Mr McKim flying off somewhere else.

Ms O'Connor - Yes, you were very happy to see the back of Mr McKim, I know that.

Mr HARRISS - Yes, indeed; you see, they are Ms O'Connor's words. She is happy to wave him goodbye. She was tempted not to endorse his nomination for the Senate seat, I think.

I listened closely to Ms Dawkins' contribution and the first thought that came to mind was that the ghost of Kim Booth is still hanging around here somewhere in a different guise.

Ms O'Connor - Yes, a Greens member who cares about forests - surprise, surprise.

Mr HARRISS - And don't we all? What the quite extensive motion moved by Ms Dawkins fails to recognise is that Tasmania has the most rigorous and robust forestry practices system in the world and is recognised as such.

All my observations in a previous life in the Parliament led me to conclude that the former chief forest practices officer, Graham Wilkinson, administered the provisions of the Forest Practices Act and the forest practices plans which sit under that in an outstanding manner to the extent that Mr Wilkinson's services have been sought from many other countries around the world so that other jurisdictions can be informed of what a good forest practices system looks like and how it ought to be administered. Many other jurisdictions do not take into consideration or are not required to have their forest practices systems apply to private land. Tasmania's does and it is the most rigorous. The motion fails to recognise or even entertain the prospect that Tasmania's forest practices system is in fact world's best practice.

In addition, it ignores the fact that Forestry Tasmania has been required to produce a forest practices plan that has to take into consideration more than the

things Ms Dawkins referred to in her contribution. She talked about some threatened species -

Ms O'Connor - How's the swift parrot going? That's right, downhill fast.

Mr HARRISS - Operational decisions relating to harvesting either this coupe as proposed or other individual coupes are a matter for Forestry Tasmania. We all know that those operational decisions by Forestry Tasmania are then evaluated by the Forest Practice Authority in assessing a forest practices plan.

It is important to put some context and reality around what happens. It is both the Government and the Parliament's role to set the frameworks within which Forestry Tasmania conducts their operational decisions and processes, so the Parliament is involved in doing that. The two most important pieces of legislation that sit around the operational processes of Forestry Tasmania are the Forest Management Act 2013 - a very recent piece of legislation brought in by the former government as to a change of process as to where Forestry Tasmania treads - and the Forest Practices Act itself to which I have already alluded as to the role of the Forest Practices Authority.

I draw attention to section 16 of the Forest Management Act which requires Forestry Tasmania to make available a minimum of 137 000 cubic metres of high-quality sawlog every year and restricts Forestry Tasmania's activity in native forest harvesting operations to permanent timber production zone land. Where is the Lapoinya coupe to which Ms Dawkins refers? It is in the permanent timber production zone land. When I think about the permanent timber production zone land and all the machinations that occurred around forestry in Tasmania during the consideration of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement, this particular coupe and numerous others were not identified as having special high-conservation values, hence they are still in the permanent timber production zone land and not proposed for reserves back then. We had the Jonathan West verification group assess, they would say in a very rigorous manner, the potential for reserves in this state and where there were conservation values.

Much of the debate over the years has shifted from old-growth harvesting to high-conservation values. In other conversations we hear the references to conservation value rather than high-conservation value, so it seems that those who want to continually attack the forest industry and its legitimacy seek to constantly move the goalposts.

The operations of Forestry Tasmania with regard to its proposal to, under the provisions of the forest practices plan, harvest this particular coupe is consistent with the Government's clear election commitment to rebuild the forest industry.

Ms O'Connor - It is going beautifully, isn't it? It is not. How many extra jobs have you created in forestry? You sacked Forestry Tasmania workers.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr HARRISS - It is interesting that Ms O'Connor seeks to imply that things are not going well. She is in for a bit of a surprise in terms of all of the good which is going on to rebuild the industry after the destruction perpetrated on the industry by Ms O'Connor when she was in Cabinet, or when she chose to sit there rather than jump in and out of the place.

Forestry Tasmania has in the past, is on this occasion and will continue to into the future, take account of all of those matters when producing forest practices plans. The Forest Practices Authority will astutely, as it always has done and has a legislative requirement to do, take into account a whole range of matters to which I might refer in a moment.

Because this particular coupe is in the permanent timber production zone land, it forms a key part of the resource available to support Tasmanian sawmillers in producing the timber products that we all rely on for building, furniture and flooring. In doing so, Forestry Tasmania also provides much-needed employment in the north-west, not to say anything else about the rest of Tasmania. Again, Madam Speaker, the 137 000 cubic metres was signed off on by Ms O'Connor when she was a part of the former government.

Ms O'Connor *interjecting.*

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I am not going to keep reminding members this afternoon. Please do not shout out and disrupt the member who is trying to give a contribution.

Mr HARRISS - In order to provide the 137 000 cubic metres, Ms O'Connor would know well that of what is left on permanent timber production zone land, about 800 000 hectares, only about 60 per cent is available when you factor in the various informal reserves and land which is inaccessible. It is a nonsense to suggest that what has happened in the past was going to deliver what Ms O'Connor sought to deliver in terms of the 137 000 cubic metres. It was a fraud perpetrated on the people of Tasmania. It was a fraud from start to finish.

Ms O'Connor *interjecting.*

Madam SPEAKER - Order. I am going to have to eject the member for Denison if she does not cease her interjections and I do not want to have to do that.

Mr HARRISS - Madam Speaker, to put some further context around what we are talking about here, it would not be lost on those from the electorate of Braddon who understand the area well and would know that the neighbouring Flowerdale River reserve, immediately adjacent to this coupe, is 290 hectares. That reserve will continue to provide protected habitat for local wildlife and will remain in perpetuity for recreation and visitor access. In perpetuity.

I have already mentioned a couple of times that in meeting its wood supply obligations, Forestry Tasmania must meet all requirements set out in the Forest Practices Act to ensure reasonable protection of forest values. What are some of the obligations placed upon the Forest Practices Authority and anybody who is drawing up forest practices plans? It is important to note that the Forest Practices Authority is to act in a manner that best advances the objective of the State's forest practices system. What are the objectives of the state's forest practices system? To achieve sustainable management of crown and private forests and to take due care of the environment.

Further, the Forest Practices Authority in its objectives is to consider the conservation of threatened native vegetation communities. There are many other components of the Forest Practices Act as to the objectives which have to be assessed, not just for this proposed logging coupe, but for all others which are put forward by Forestry Tasmania for logging in the permanent timber production zone land.

There are probably only three people in here who would suggest that Forestry Tasmania does not take its responsibilities seriously. Forestry Tasmania does take its responsibilities very seriously. There is a comprehensive forest management system and processes that are in place to manage important environmental, cultural and other values; there is a legislative requirement to take them into consideration.

Forestry Tasmania was in discussions with the community in the region from August 2014 through to the earlier part of this year in an attempt to arrive at an outcome that will provide the timber required by local sawmills and other wood processors while also managing important environmental values. They have no choice but to do just that.

Over the course of the planning for this coupe, many adjustments were made to the harvest area to protect important forest values identified by Forestry Tasmania, and to respond to issues raised by the community members themselves. For example, Forestry Tasmania increased the size of reserved areas around streams in the coupe to provide greater protection for freshwater crayfish habitat and for rainforest communities. That also included two significant gum forestry communities; FT increased the reserved area around those areas. The net effect of all these adjustments has been to reduce the harvest area of the coupe by more than

45 per cent, from the notional planning area of 92 hectares to the planned area of 49 hectares.

There has been astute and proper consideration by Forestry Tasmania for sustainable environmental outcomes as against the sustainable forest management which Forestry Tasmania is obliged to deliver in consideration of forest practices plans for this state.

In addition to that, Forestry Tasmania delayed its decision on the proposed operation and complemented its normal processes by undertaking a detailed internal review of all the issues and information provided and of the proposed management measures included in the draft forest practices plan. It was delayed so there could be proper consideration. I would defy anybody to contend that Forestry Tasmania has not acted in a very responsible manner in terms of its community consultation and the consideration of the forest practices plan to be put forward for assessment by the Forest Practices Authority regarding this coupe.

I mentioned the internal review which Forestry Tasmania undertook as part of that delay in its decision-making process. The primary purpose of the internal review was to determine whether the proposed operation would meet all required standards and legislation. Particularly, that was to determine whether the proposed operations would meet all relevant requirements under the Forest Practices Act, the Forest Practices Code and the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act for the protection of environmental and cultural values. We all know that such consideration includes requirements relating to threatened species, such as the giant freshwater crayfish, the Tasmanian devil, the spotted-tail quoll and the wedge-tailed eagle, to mention but some. They have no choice but to take that into consideration. They have done that. During this delay they have had that internal review to add rigour to what they had already been doing.

Given the delays that occurred in response to community requests and to complete the internal review, Forestry Tasmania determined that it was unlikely that the roading and harvesting operations could be completed in optimal weather and ground conditions if the operations were to commence back in May this year when the original intent for commencement was in place. They decided it was unlikely there would be conducive conditions to proceed with the roading and the harvesting. To minimise the potential for any adverse impacts, such as increased sediment flows and others, Forestry Tasmania decided not to proceed with the harvesting of the coupe in the 2014-15 financial year. It also deferred certification of the final forest practices plan until there is a firm planned commencement date, so it is still under consideration.

I am advised that the coupe is now listed for harvest in the current financial year and confirmed in Forestry Tasmania's 2015-16 to 2017-18 three-year wood

production plan, which is on Forestry Tasmania's website and was released back on 14 July. I am further advised that the local community was notified by Forestry Tasmania that this coupe has been listed for harvest in 2015-16 but no exact timing for the commencement of operations has been determined. Forestry Tasmania has undertaken to provide the community with at least 30 days notice prior to the commencement of the operations.

It is important to reiterate that the underlying principle of the forest practices system in Tasmania, confirmed by the Forest Practices Act and the Forest Practices Authority, is that environmental considerations have to be taken into consideration, as do social and economic. Then I could turn my mind to reflecting on whether there is a social licence to proceed to this permanent timber production zoned land, this coupe.

It is a matter of fact that in the 2014 state election in Braddon the Greens vote was a little over 7 per cent, the Liberal vote just shy of 60 per cent, the Labor vote just around 23 per cent and the Palmer United Party actually outpolled the Greens.

Ms Ogilvie - The 6 per cent swing to Labor in Sandy Bay at that election is pretty interesting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr HARRISS - Yes, but Lapoinya is not in Sandy Bay and I do not think there are any coupes in Sandy Bay that we are going to be logging.

If one wants to address one's mind to a social licence, nothing could be starker in terms of the will of the Tasmanian people with regard to support of Liberal policies taken to the last election and they were clearly to tear up the job-destroying Tasmanian Forest Agreement and chart a new and better direction for the forest industry in this state to continue to drive economic activity to contribute to job growth. It all has to be done in accordance with legislative requirements under the Forest Practices Act and the objectives of the forest practices system in Tasmania adequately set out in legislation. All of those matters to which Ms O'Connor keeps referring, by interjection, are requirements of the law. I am confident that Forestry Tasmania has acted entirely responsibly with regard to this coupe.

There have been matters raised by Ms Dawkins in her motion as to devil habitat and she goes on to attest there are all sorts of carbon benefits. I will not address my mind to that. There is a very robust forest practices system in this state, in fact the best in the world. We deliver the best forest outcomes anywhere in the world and so will be the case in the event when Forestry Tasmania moves to harvest this coupe. It is a regrowth forest and so all that is good about the biota in

here is as a result of properly managing our forests, which Forestry Tasmania has done for the next rotation. It is all good, strong, robust science and the motion does not take account of any of that and implies all sorts of conspiracy theories about the carbon and the harvesting. Forestry Tasmania has done an outstanding job with this coupe and I reject the notion of the motion.

[5.36 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Madam Speaker, every time Mr Harriss gets to his feet I am reminded that he is the weakest link in the Cabinet. He is an inept minister who will oversee the continued decline of the industry in Tasmania. He refuses to accept the economic reality of what has happened to the native forest timber industry around the world. He refuses to accept the reality that the markets do not want woodchips that have come from high conservation-value forests. There is a wall of plantation timber out there that is much better quality timber for paper making and here we have a minister who has his head in the sand about the future of the industry in Tasmania. It is in true style of a government that has a whiff of fascism about it. One of the hallmarks of fascism is to find a scapegoat, blame all the woes on that scapegoat, and that scapegoat in this instance is the Tasmanian Greens. It is to divide and divide, to dumb down the public discourse about matters of serious significance to us as a state and a community. I might note for the record that the Labor Party seems quite content on this notice of motion not to contribute or put up a speaker.

Mrs Rylah - That's sensible.

Ms O'CONNOR - You think that is sensible? They would be hoist then, would they not, because they were part of a government that tried to chart a course to peace in Tasmania through the Tasmanian Forest Agreement and now they are reverting to type. The minister has misled the House because the Liberals did not take a forest policy to the last election. They took a slogan to the election. The slogan was that they would tear up the disastrous, jobs-destroying forest deal. The substantive chapter of that slogan was that they would rebuild the forest industry. The Liberals have no forest policy and that is why they have got in government having promised to end the subsidies to Forestry Tasmania, and now we understand that around \$70 million in direct public subsidies as well as a loan facility, has been funnelled into a failing government business entity. That is not stopping the subsidies, that is ramping up the subsidies. To send Forestry Tasmania even further into decline in order that they survive in the short term, this Government has directed they sell the only part of their portfolio which is going to be profitable in the future and that is the plantation resource.

Mr Harriss, you want to talk about fraud. As minister, you are a fraud. You want to talk about sustainable management of our forest estate here in Tasmania. I urge any member of the House who wants to understand what has happened to our

forests here in Tasmania to Google Earth this island. Have a look at it. In parts, it is like it has mange; there are bald patches all over this island that are the consequence of decades of unsustainable logging all focused on a completely precarious native forest woodchip market. Once the Japanese buyers woke up and the wall of plantation wood came online we were left behind because we had that head-in-the-sand approach to forestry in Tasmania from both the major parties for decades sucking up to Gunns, pumping up Forestry Tasmania and dumbing down the public debate. It is the Labor and Liberal parties who are culpable for what has happened to the industry here in Tasmania and it will be this Liberal minister who is responsible when the Forest Stewardship Council comes back to Tasmania and says there are still major areas of non-compliance. We told you in April in the report that we delivered to Government that there were significant areas of non-compliance. They relate to volumes, as I understand it, and they relate to logging of habitat.

You have a minister who out of one side of his mouth says the state is committed to achieving Forest Stewardship Council certification because that is what the markets want, but out of the other side of his mouth is prepared to allow Forestry Tasmania to log an area of forest which is home to threatened and endangered species. The Forest Stewardship Council is not stupid. They know that just because the minister says something does not mean it is so. The fact of the matter is there is only one place in the world that you will find the giant freshwater crayfish and that is in the rivers that run north into Bass Strait.

Mr Llewellyn - You are being nasty to me all the time.

Ms O'CONNOR - Yes, but talking about forestry and threatened species it all comes back to me, Mr Llewellyn. We have in Lapoinya endangered devils that Nick Mooney, arguably the most experienced wildlife biologist in Tasmania, describes as a veritable highway for the Tasmanian devil in an area that -

Mrs Rylah - He should see my place.

Ms O'CONNOR - Would you like your place to be clear-felled?

Mrs Rylah - No.

Ms O'CONNOR - No, but it is not in your backyard, is it?

We know it has giant freshwater crayfish, so the Forest Stewardship Council will be keeping abreast of these issues and there will be interested parties in Tasmania who will be making sure they are kept abreast of the fact that we have a minister for forests who is prepared to log a place like Lapoinya and who wants to log the forests behind Inala on Bruny Island, again with no thought to the social and economic consequences of that.

The Forest Practices Act is very clear but the triple bottom line has the environment at the end. The Forest Practices Authority is to give due consideration to social, economic and environmental factors. Even on social and economic measures it is stupid to log a place like the forests behind Inala. It is stupid to log a place like Lapoinya which brings so much pleasure to so many people and is home to threatened species, but let us not forget when we talk about threatened species here in Tasmania that the so-called minister for Environment who is allegedly responsible for the wellbeing of the swift parrot is part of a government that has been trying to trade off habitat for the swift parrot because it is trying to have it all, trying to pretend that the Government and Forestry Tasmania are genuinely concerned for the survival of the swift parrot, while on the other hand negotiating away their habitat. There are an estimated 1 000 breeding pairs of swift parrots remaining in the whole world and they make that epic journey down the east coast of Tasmania through those forests. They nest in and around the Southern Forests and Bruny Island and for decades now their habitat has been smashed and trashed by Forestry Tasmania and Gunns and by the policy settings of successive governments, because in this state threatened species always come last, no matter what platitudes the minister for forests mouths in this place. They always come last.

Mr Llewellyn - They don't go down Lapoinya, though.

Ms O'CONNOR - No, but the giant freshwater crayfish, *astacopsis gouldi*, does.

This is a Government prepared to pump public dollars into unsustainable logging. They want to use public money to prop up an unsustainable industry that continues to have its head in the sand. Clearly we have a minister for forests here who does not understand the science of carbon and carbon sequestration because if this minister paid any attention to the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he would know that around 20 per cent of the carbon that is lost on the planet comes from exactly the kind of forest practices he is such a passionate advocate for, deforestation. What the science is telling us, Mr Harriss, is that every bit of carbon that is now currently in the ground or captured in a forest needs to stay there if we are to have any chance at all of not hitting two degrees of warming.

Mr Harriss, I and the Greens are waiting for you to update the House on the progress of Forestry Tasmania's FSC bid, because you got that report from the auditors in April, four months ago, which identified areas of major non-compliance, and you have not come into this place and been open and transparent about FT's chances of achieving FSC certification under the Government's current policy settings. This is a matter of significant public interest. The Liberals have

told Tasmanians that they are going to fix it all but they cannot because they are wedded to the old way. I will be very surprised if the FSC thinks that even 137 000 cubic metres is not an unsustainable level of logging. It is clearly unsustainable because we still have FT contemplating logging places like Lapoinya and Inala on Bruny Island. It really is time as a state that we recognised we are the custodians of something truly unique and miraculous on the planet, and that is our old-growth forests, species such as the giant freshwater crayfish, wedge-tailed eagles, swift parrots, the blind belted worm, creatures that are found nowhere else on earth but here. We have forests that are magnificent on global standards. Trees such as Huon pine, King Billy and pencil pine do not grow anywhere else.

It is disappointing that every time Minister Harriss gets to his feet, instead of having respectful and informed conversations about the true state of the forestry product market, the industry and its true cost - not just to the environment but to our economy, because there are such heavy public subsidies going into the industry - we have instead a forest minister who blames the previous government for the situation confronting the industry here for many years, refusing to acknowledge that it was his own industry colleagues who came to government saying, 'We have to do it differently'.

Mr Brooks - Because you forced them to come.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Brooks, if I had that much power I might not be here. You cannot force old enemies to sit down at a table and engage in constructive talks if they do not want to.

Mr Brooks - You can when you destroy their business; a bit of something is better than all of nothing.

Ms O'CONNOR - It is very sad for the environment in Tasmania that Mr Harriss administers our forests because they are in the worst of hands. They are in the hands of someone who writes to concerned individuals, such as Mr Stewart Hoyt, about his concerns. Mr Hoyt has written to the minister asking that Lapoinya be protected from logging and he says:

You may be aware that more than half of our entire island is already in reserve and that the Government took a commitment to last year's state election to end the lock-ups.

Have we not heard that before? It is conveniently ignoring the fact that no-one is locked out of a national park, World Heritage Area or reserve, but every member of the public is locked out of a future logging coupe. We have all been there in the Florentine and in the Styx. There are big gates across the coupe; you cannot get in. If you want to talk about a lockup, it is the land that is given over to

clearfelling and burning here in Tasmania. National Parks and World Heritage areas are no lockup; they are opening up to the world what makes Tasmania such a spectacular and desirable attraction to more than a million visitors every year. Back to this farcical letter and the minister goes on to say:

That policy position was overwhelmingly endorsed by the Tasmanian electorate highlighted by the election of four Liberals out of five seats in Braddon.

That tells you everything because it is all about politics at the end of the day. It is not about an effective administration of forestry in Tasmania that genuinely sets up the industry for a sustainable future we can all be part of and proud of with a focus on our plantation timbers - properly managed, sustainably harvested, and an investment for the future. It is all about the politics. Mr Harriss and his colleagues would know this. The reason that so many tens of millions of dollars go into the north-west of Tasmania is that come the 2018 state election, either Mr Jaensch or Mrs Rylah will not be sitting in this place.

Mr Brooks - You don't know that.

Ms O'CONNOR - You will be there. I am sure you will be there because you have the capacity to very significantly bankroll your campaign. The vote in Braddon will not hold up for the Liberals, so you can play politics with places like Lapoinya all you like. At the end of the day, it will not cut it. You will stand condemned by future generations who look at what successive governments in Tasmania did to our forests, our landscapes, our water supplies, and to threatened species. They will look at that and they will condemn you.

[5.55 p.m.]

Mr GREEN (Braddon - Leader of the Opposition) - Madam Speaker, the Labor Party will not be supporting the motion. We put a lot of effort into ensuring we changed the focus of the forest industry in Tasmania to a market-driven industry. That is why I am confident Forestry Tasmania and those involved in ensuring we meet our supply requirements with 137 000 cubic metres of sawlog per year would have taken into consideration aspects that the community is concerned about with harvesting from a coupe in a community such as Lapoinya. I pay respect to their right to campaign against the logging of this particular coupe but I would say to them in context that all Tasmanians love the bush but we are trying to get a balance with the ongoing viability and our ability to supply high-quality sawlog and potentially special timbers into markets that require that volume into the future.

The reason I know I am right about community expectations about this is that we did an enormous amount of work to get to a point where we understood what

forests were available for logging into the future. That was a negotiated outcome with the ENGOs. The 137 000 cubic metres and the area of land associated with that reduced quite significantly from the original ask with industry versus conservation outcomes through the whole TFA process. The Government has chosen to rip that up, which has eroded much of the goodwill that would have been provided had the agreement stayed in place. They have ripped up the agreement but they have not changed the volume and that is why I believe we are seeing the angst within the community. It would have been very difficult for ENGOs, or anyone else, to run a legitimate argument, given all that had been said and done through both Houses of Parliament here, to get to a point where a coupe like the one at Lapoinya stayed in.

It is sometimes coupes like that that can tip the balance with communities' expectations generally. I know none other than Mr Pullinger who played a fairly significant role in running arguments against forestry was sparked into that by the harvesting of coupes in the Cam River Valley at the time where he was most upset about that - certainly his father was - and that moved into him campaigning to get a different outcome in the forests. Sometimes coupes within communities can spark community outrage where people have built up a long relationship with them. You can understand that because we all love the aesthetics of the forests. It is important we try to get that balance. I know FSC certification is still front and centre with the Government but FSC certification requires the community to be on board. That is why we cautioned so strongly against the ripping up of the agreement. We felt that that would erode the ability of the minister to stand in his place in this House and run a legitimate argument as to what had been said and done to get to that point. The problem the Government has now is that the volumes have not changed.

We will watch with interest. I ask the minister to at some stage allow us to understand the point that was raised about special timbers - whether this particular coupe is part of the special timbers analysis that is being done. The minister has kindly offered to provide us with a briefing on that matter in the not-too-distant future. If it is the case, as has been put forward by the mover, that the expectation might be that special timbers could be harvested from this coupe in the future without any problem - that is what she seemed to be indicating - that might be something that is considered as part of this. Whether it is the coupe that is in that equation, I am not sure. I want to remain true to my word and the Labor Party's word on the 137 000 cubic metres - the coupes that are available to do that and the area available to do that, so we will not be supporting it.

The House divided -

AYES 3

NOES 19

Ms Dawkins (Teller)

Mr Bacon

Ms O'Connor
Ms Woodruff

Mr Barnett (Teller)
Mr Brooks
Mr Ferguson
Ms Giddings
Mr Green
Mr Groom
Mr Harriss
Mr Hidding
Mr Hodgman
Mr Jaensch
Ms Llewellyn
Ms O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mrs Rylah
Mr Shelton
Ms White

Motion negatived.