



Tasmania

Government Media Statement

May 16, 2006

PAUL LENNON
Premier

Taking A Fresh Look At Forest Regeneration

The Premier today launched ‘Seeing Is Believing’ – a new book graphically demonstrating how quickly forests regenerate after harvesting.

Mr Lennon said the book featured Picton Coupe 39A, which was harvested and burned in 1989, with images widely used by the conservation movement to further their anti-logging campaign.

“This book is a visual record of these forests over time, compiled by photographer Richard Bennett with text by former forest, heritage and conservation manager Ken Felton and author Simon Cubit,” Mr Lennon said.

“Some of these forestry coupes became hallmarks for forest politics, activism and media coverage in their day.

“And what many Tasmanians don’t know about them today is that these coupes are now healthy forests.”

“Long-term State policy to regenerate State forests and the commitment to continuous improvement in forest management have resulted in Tasmania leading the nation’s competition index for forest resources.

“Picton 39A became infamous among conservation campaigners when regeneration burning took place in 1989.

“Today, we had to use an eight-metre scissor lift to look over the regrowth to see the trunk that identifies this famous site.”

Mr Lennon said the forest industry had been constantly challenged with images of the starting points of its activities.

“This book poses a counter challenge,” he said.

“Harvesting and burning are not about wood waste and smoke. They are the beginning, not the end.

“These coupes are about growing forests, if only we would remember to go back and take a look.”

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