

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

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Email correspondence

From: Michael Ryan [<mailto:mfryan18@optusnet.com.au>]

Sent: Tuesday, 16 November 2010 8:45 PM

To: support@networkten.com.au

Subject: 7PM Project Contact Us - Site Query

Dear 7pm project.

Your article today on the new peace deal for forests in Tasmania was disturbing for its overt bias and promotion of the views of Dr Bob Brown over any other perspectives on this important issue.

Forest managers are constantly faced with misinformation campaigns by environmental groups and this is exacerbated by slack reporting that does not seek balance or check basic facts.

Please provide responses to the following:

- a) Your justification for the statement "In the past 10 years one fifth of Australia's forests have been lost to woodchipping".
- b) Why no forest managers or professional foresters were interviewed?
- c) Why you did not state that Tasmania already has around 45% of the entire State already in the conservation reserve system.

By your article you would believe all forests are just woodchipped and lost forever - this is blatantly false. The most valuable product are the sawlogs which are not currently available from plantations. Woodchips are from parts of a tree unsuited to producing sawn timber. It would also be worth looking at forests harvested 30 years ago to see if they are really "lost to woodchipping". It is also important to recognise that, for the most part, Australia's native forest industries are utilising areas that have already been harvested before i.e. they are not old-growth – but some old growth is still important in Tasmania for its high value sawlog and specialty timbers – which cannot come from plantations.

From a wider perspective this glib reporting is unhelpful. It promotes a biased perspective and ignores wider issues such as Australia's importation of \$4 billion in forest products per year or that globally every 6 months an area of tropical forests the size of Tasmania's entire forested estate is lost to deforestation. Australia contributes to this deforestation by closing its own sustainable production of forest products and importing its timber requirements instead – much from unsustainable sources.

Rather than a singular focus on closing down Australia's forest industries, as implied by your article, there should be focus on increased replanting of native vegetation into parts of the degraded or over-cleared agricultural landscape, and reducing tropical deforestation - this however rarely gets mainstream coverage.

I would urge more diligent reporting in future.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Ryan
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Institute of Foresters of Australia