

“In Support of Progress” Newsletter

Newsletter 27

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AQUACULTURE

Huon Aquaculture ran a good Oped in the Mercury on the weekend. A good example of what should be done by companies to ensure their message is heard and understood by the general public.

FISHERIES

It has been floated that the vessel Margiris be renamed the Abel Tasman. An interesting approach, as will be its forthcoming arrival into Devonport.

FORESTRY

Industry announced over the weekend it will be withdrawing from the IGA process, at least for now. This move has been prompted by the Government's decision to split FT into a government department for land management and a separate entity for commercial activity. AS stated previously, no detail is as yet forthcoming from the government as to the hows, whats and whens, let alone the whys.

What **has** now come to light, and what has prompted the move by industry to withdraw from the talks, is that they were given assurances by government when the IGA Interim Agreement was signed 2 weeks ago that the control of forest lands would remain under the control of FT, as a statutory authority with an independent board.

Two weeks later, and the government announces a decision (presumably made earlier) that forest lands will now come under the control of a government department. That's not bad - their word is at least good for 2 weeks. An industry spokesperson has said "We were led up the garden path", and "If satisfaction is not obtained from the Minister when they meet with him next Thursday, then it's all over red rover." We await the outcome of that meeting with interest.

An interesting proposition, that is has been the Greens' insistence on doing over FT which will bring about the collapse of these 2 year-old talks, and as such the failure of their claim for the reservation of up to 572,000 hectares from logging. Sometimes, one can be too smart by half.

Meanwhile, out in the bush, vandals this weekend destroyed over \$750,000 of logging equipment. So much for the much-touted "peace in our forests"

FORESTRY Part 2

The Gunns picture is a dismal one. Two years ago, the company made a strategic decision to get out of native forest timber, in part an endeavour to engender public support (a "social licence") for its pulp mill. The company was experiencing a loss of markets for its woodchip product - and this loss has led to the current mantra that the entire industry is in a state of change.

It remains to be seen whether the offshore markets turned off native woodchip (as some would have us believe), or whether the market turned off Gunns.

Tasmania's misfortune was that nearly all its woodchips were in the one basket. It is a fact that the failure by Gunns has had a dramatic flow-on in to the rest of the sector, and beyond.

As stated before, sitting in Tasmania complaining about the situation will not get those markets back. It requires an aggressive and continuing campaign. That's the nature of the global economy, and we will need to get used to it.

One trade visit a year doesn't really cut it.

GENERAL

Attached find a collection of the latest set of statistics.

Still working on the layout, but the graphs are self-explanatory.

This newsletter is supported by Tasman Management Services.



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