

# “In Support of Progress” Newsletter

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Great news for the salmon farmers, with the Federal Government deciding NOT to call the project in for further assessment under the EPBC Act. The project is an expansion of existing farms in Macquarie Harbour, and has been the subject of a rigorous state assessment process over the past 2 years.

It has been an interesting process. Two years ago, the industry *collectively* put forward a proposal to the State Government for the expansion of farms on the West Coast. The proposal was backed up by a rigorous study and documentation. The State assessed it, found it to be acceptable under its own Act, and approved the project subject to Commonwealth assessment. It then became the promoter of the project to the Commonwealth Government. This occurred some 4 months ago, and excited the wrath of the conservation movement, and in particular the Tasmanian Conservation Trust.

What has now happened is that the Commonwealth has accepted that the process undertaken by the State authorities was sufficient to satisfy their own rigorous requirements.

Well done to the companies involved, and also well done to the State Government for the lead it has shown in this matter.

True to form the ABC has described the expansion as “massive”. Emotive language, and for what purpose? And once again, on cue, Environment Tasmania spokespeople complain that the expansion may cause - yes, you guessed it - environmental damage, endangered species will be endangered, not enough baseline data has been collected etc etc. Same old.. same old... Expect more from them soon.

## **THE FOREST PEACE TALKS**

Industry has returned to the table, after suspending involvement due to the government decision to split FT. The return has been prompted by the government advising in writing that splitting FT would not occur immediately, and the split would only be done on the basis of evidence, and not politics.

Obviously the evidence isn't in yet, which begs the question – on what basis was the decision made to split FT in the first place? The answer is of course Politics - because the Greens wanted to split it. Greens 1, Government 0. In fact it appears more and more obvious that McKim is pulling the strings – at times I think we should call it the McKim Government and be done with it!

Industry has made it quite clear that it is back at the table under sufferance, that any agreement must be reached by the end of the month, that it will only stay until the end of the month, and that any agreement must guarantee annual wood supply to a level of 155,000 cub metres of sawlog, irrespective of any handing in of quota.

We all know this is impossible, if the demands of the conservation movement are to be met. Industry won't budge, the conservation movement won't budge, so again I ask, "What is plan B"?

If industry is true to its word, and it has been so far, the answer to this question will become more apparent at the end of this month.

## **MINING**

In yet another example of Greens doubletalk, the Greens are saying they are in favour of mining in the Tarkine, as long as it does not involve new mines. They argue it makes good economics to go back over old workings. If that is the case, then why is it not happening already? Economics, perhaps?

Maybe they will be offering subsidies to make such actions economically viable, although somehow I doubt it.

## **GENERAL**

A number of people have asked whether they can circulate the newsletter to a broader audience – of course, it's pleasing to know it is of interest.

Others have written asking how they can subscribe to this newsletter. Registration is now available via the website [www.julianamos.com.au](http://www.julianamos.com.au)  
NB Those presently receiving the letter are already registered as subscribers.

The newsletter is an irregular publication and is issued as circumstances dictate. Comment on the format is appreciated, as is comment on the content. At this time, comment can be directed to [julian@tasms.com.au](mailto:julian@tasms.com.au).

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