

# “In Support of Progress” Newsletter

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There have been some interesting developments in the resource space over the last week or so.

### **Fishing**

Minister Burke has pronounced a 2-year ban on the operations of the Abel Tasman, arguing that further science is required to be done on the fishery. He has not advised how that science is going to be done, or who will carry out the work. He will nominate an expert committee to review the work, but what work? What resources will be made available to do such work? All of these points have been well made by Prof Colin Buxton, at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, who queries the rationale for placing the ban.

The company, which still has its quota of 18,000 tonnes of fish, is considering the use of a smaller vessel to catch its quota. It will be fishing closer inshore, and using the same type of escape hatch in its nets to protect larger mammals.

Note that similar size nets and vessels are already operating in Australian waters. This is rapidly moving to a position of total absurdity, where the only “logical” outcome for the minister is to close the entire trawl-fishing industry.

### **Planning**

The recent decision by the government to legislate to enable the Salamanca Square development to proceed parallels the lack of action taken by the government over the red awnings. Both are the result of Heritage Council decisions, and the absurdity of the latter has been emphasised by the fact that awnings exist at the entrance to the Ball and Chain restaurant in historic Salamanca Place, no different to the issue in Murray Street.

Further, the glacial pace of change in the development of new planning schemes was emphasised this week by the Minister, who stated that delays in having new planning schemes approved were occasioned for “legal reasons”. Minister, I think that is the point. Change the law.

If the community wants development to occur, then the planning schemes and their administration have to accommodate that, and not be a hindrance to it. I could fill these pages with examples of the absurdity of the present system is, and how detrimental it is to good governance, and economic growth.

## **Power**

The Electricity Reform Bill is presently before Parliament. The Bill provides for the establishment of an *Energy Reform Co-ordinator* to resolve the merger of Transend' transmission network with Aurora's poles and wires, the sale of Aurora's retail base and the transfer or sale of other assets. The "Co-ordinator will be under the control of Treasury.

There is a deal more to this matter than meets the eye, and I hope to provide further detail in a later edition. However, in brief, it is a decidedly bureaucratic and non-commercial approach to the treatment of commercial entities. The risk is that the process of itself could destroy significant value, and there are agendas at play here far beyond the simple commercial arrangements.

## **The Tarkine**

Conservation groups have been promoting the fact the area is a pristine wilderness, covered with magnificent rainforests, and that such will be threatened by mining activity. Pictures of Minister Burke gazing upwards into a tree top, or rafting down a pristine river, or pictures of the Tasmanian devil, adorn their advertising sheets.

However, the truth as always is a little different. Attached is a picture of the licence area of Shree Minerals and Venture Mining. Note the total absence of rainforest or of pristine rivers. And certainly not the habitat of the Tasmanian devil. Never mind the fact that mining has existed in the area for over 100 years. The bush can best be described as heathland. It may well have intrinsic value, but it is definitely not pristine rainforest.

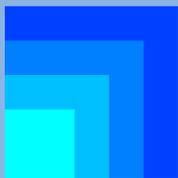
As we have come to learn, let not the truth get in the way of a good story.

## **The IGA Process Continues**

Finally. The forest debate continues. The Government believes the participants are close to a deal, and that they will be able to pass legislation, maybe even as soon as today.

I could well be wrong on this one, but I just cannot see it happening. My reasons are contained in the more detailed Opinion Piece attached to this newsletter.

This newsletter is supported by Tasman Management Services.



Further information is provided at [www.julianamos.com.au](http://www.julianamos.com.au)

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The Venture Minerals Mt Lindsay site



Shree Minerals Site



Figure 4: Landscape of the mine site