





# FORESTS & FOREST INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF TASMANIA

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8 August 2005

The General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1119  
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2005 regarding the Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association (TFCA) and their application for authorisation on behalf of its member forest contractors to allow them to collectively negotiate the terms and conditions of their contracts with a number of wood companies operating within Tasmania.

The Forests and Forest Industry Council (FFIC) of Tasmania is an organisation with the express purpose of providing expert advice to the Tasmanian Minister for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and the forest industry on forest related matters. The FFIC provides a leadership role in ensuring that Tasmania's forests are managed sustainably and for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

The FFIC represents the broad cross-section of all forestry interests, including forest workers, contractors, sawmillers, beekeepers, local government, indigenous groups, recreational users, furniture manufacturers, timber companies, private forest growers and farmers as well as Forestry Tasmania and the State Government.

The FFIC also plays an important leadership role in the development and communication of forest industry policy, industry development initiatives and applied scientific advice. We are also an information source on forestry-related technologies and value-adding opportunities.

From an industry perspective, the implementation of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) in 1997 was the first step to delivering certainty and stability to forestry and timber worker in Tasmania. In providing resource security, it was the Government's view that employment security and benefit would flow mutually to employees. The State Government enacted Fair Contracts legislation in an attempt to ensure such an outcome.


The FFIC members have a range of views on the TFCA's application, with one member being the applicant and others representing companies with which the TCFA

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wants to collectively bargain. As such, the FFIC collectively cannot either support or reject the TFCA's application.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for contacting the FFIC in regard to this application, and ask that you please keep us informed on its progress. Not only is it important from an industry perspective, but it relates directly to the interests of a number of members on our Council. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Trevor Bird (General Manager - FFIC) on (03) 6233 8233 if you require any assistance or additional information on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Rob Woolley  
Chairman  
Forests & Forest Industry Council