

Taking another look at the options

Following the withdrawal of the Southwood Fibre proposal for a southern woodchip export facility south of Dover, the State Government reiterated its commitment to achieving a southern residues solution to support jobs in the forest industry.

They tasked the Department of State Growth (DSG) with examining all options, and commissioned long-standing forestry leader Evan Rolley to assist the investigation of strategic options.

Evan has a long association with the Huon Valley, working with Forestry Tasmania in the Valley in the 90s, and establishing his Heriots Point Vineyard at Castle Forbes Bay in 1995.

He has held a number of executive roles in the forest industry, including managing director of Forestry Tasmania for 16 years until 2006, director of Engineered Wood Products Association of Australia, director of Forest Industries Association of Tasmania, executive director of Ta Ann Tasmania and, after a stint in agriculture, most recently with VDL Farms, has last week been appointed chair of the Private Forests Tasmania board.

Mr Rolley has also headed the Department of Premier and Cabinet and been a director of Tasports.

Mr Rolley said that this holds him in good stead to understand the needs of the many stakeholders in the search for a solution to the stranded forest assets in the south of the state.

Mr Rolley said that the economics for plantation owners in the south has improved due to the weakening of the currency, with the Australian dollar trading between US\$0.74 and US\$0.76 over the last quarter the economic distance for profitably transporting logs to Bell Bay has moved further south, but that plantation owners in the lower Huon Valley and south of Cygnet are still struggling to see an economic return on their investments.

"Owners are still selling, but we are still faced with the fact that lower returns mean that producers are less likely to replant, and there won't be enough resource to meet demand in the future,"

said Mr Rolley.

"There will be less economic activity in the sector and less resource for local sawmills and veneer mills."

Mr Rolley said that it is important to utilise all the work that has already been done over the last decade around finding a solution to southern plantations and forest residues, including the previous port options study completed by Forestry Tasmania (now Sustainable Timber Tasmania) and Tasports in 2014, as well as to consider creative new options to provide a sustainable solution that will remain relevant in the medium to long term.

"All the infrastructure has to be considered - road, rail and port - what we have to do is find a sustainable solution to suit all stakeholders - mining, forestry, aquaculture, agriculture, tourism and the community," said Mr Rolley.

He has been given a tight timeframe to consider and prepare the report, and he said it would be delivered to DSG within six months for presentation to Cabinet, which means that it will be subject to Cabinet confidentiality.

"The really important part of the process is to look at new domestic processing opportunities," said Mr Rolley.

"I will be having conversations with companies that have thought about value adding, and that becomes a different task."

He said that there are cost of production issues facing veneer mills in Tasmania, particularly following the anti-dumping tariffs imposed on China by the European Union and the United States, which has resulted in a massive increase in timber veneer imports to Australia from China.

"Chinese imports has increased from 40 per cent to 80 per cent of the plywood market in Australia," said Mr Rolley.

"Tasmania has modern facilities, modern costs of production, and we just cannot match the Chinese price."

"Last year we exported 150,000 tonnes of logs to China, and they came back into Australia as ve-



Experienced forest leader Evan Rolley has been appointed to report to the Department of State Growth on the options available to stranded southern forest assets.

neer at less than the Tasmanian cost of production."

Mr Rolley said that Tasmanian companies have been working in conjunction with the University of Tasmania on research and development of structural products that the Chinese are unable to manufacture, and this innovation is the key to the future survival and sustainability of the industry in Tasmania.

Mr Rolley attended a meeting at the Glenorchy Showgrounds last Wednesday night with landown-

ers and forest industry representatives, including James Neville-Smith, to discuss current issues and concerns and future plans and opportunities in the industry.

He said that Mr Neville-Smith remains committed to the Southwood site, west of Lonnvale, but that Tasmania cannot realistically expect any further significant private investment in the industry until the infrastructure issue has been sorted out.

Fighting the war on waste as a family

Continued from front page

"We've always recycled, but because we don't get garbage collection here, we thought we really have to sort our stuff properly," said Susan.

"Then we realised how minimal our waste actually was, I mean we're far from zero waste in this house, but because we're now recycling so much better, we haven't been to the tip for nearly 14 weeks for landfill."

Susan and Greg handed back their Huon Valley Council kerbside collection bins that had to be wheeled out to the Huon Highway for collection, and also received a reduction in their council rate bill of almost \$200.

The family uses all their kitchen scraps and green waste for compost, and Susan said that they try and buy as much of their fresh produce as possible from local growers to reduce packaging.

She said that supermarket shopping can still be somewhat of a challenge, but she uses the delivery service and selects no bags, and makes sure

that any fresh produce she does buy is not wrapped in plastic.

"I find with kids snacks it's a little tricky," said Susan.

"I'm not a good baker, so I do still go and buy things like muesli bars, but at least I know it's going to be recycled, the cardboard boxes, and the plastic stuff, which goes to Recycle to make seats, or roads, or whatever."

Greg has also carried the initiative into his working life.

"I do home garden maintenance, bond clean ups and things like that, and since Susan and the boys have been doing the recycling, I've been trying to do the right thing in my work as well," said Greg. "I'll do a load of stuff for the tip, and I'll make sure it's sorted, stuff that I think the Resuse shop can use, stuff for landfill, tyres, green waste."

Greg said that he has been saving his clients plenty of money on tip fees by ensuring the rubbish is sorted.

Coles/Recycle and Replas have recently re-

warded the boys for their recycling efforts by sending them a Replas bench made from recycled soft plastics after their entry into a competition for school recycling initiatives.

The bench has been given pride of place at the cubby house, and will be used for a quiet place for reading, or just to wait for a turn on the upcycled tyre swing.

"I'm glad China has stopped taking our waste," said Susan.

"I don't even think I knew that they were taking it to be honest, but we should be dealing with our own trash, otherwise no ones going to stop using all this stuff."

"More people will keep buying perfectly well packaged bananas in another three layers of plastic."

"Until this sort of stuff stops, Australia's waste is just going to keep piling up isn't it?"

Susan said that she would like the family to get to zero waste eventually.

"I'm hoping that the recycling station will be a bookshelf within a year."

a taste of the HUON

2019 STALLHOLDER SITE

Applications are NOW OPEN

and will close on Friday, September 7, 2018

Forms are available from our website

<http://www.atasteofthehuon.com.au>

For further information email info@atasteofthehuon.com.au or phone the Festival Manager on 0457 877 723

I would like to thank all who attended our fundraiser at the Huonville Bowls Club on Friday night.

Thanks to singers Maurice Baldock, Kaye Burgess and Paul Fenton (who also did a great job with the lights and sound) and a special thanks to Kylie Adams-Collier for singing her old and new songs.

Sadly the band Sandown was not able to play due to commitments as this would have made the night even better.

Nobody left early and everyone I spoke to was very happy with the night.

MONEY RAISED FROM THE EVENING AFTER EXPENSES WAS \$473

Donations to Give Me 5 for Kids \$211.50 and Cancer Research \$211.50

Remaining in float \$50

THANKS TO ALL

Michael Mitchell
ORGANISER

Country Music
Kylie Adams-Collier
also featuring Paul Fenton, Maurice Baldock and Kaye Burgess

makers on church st

14 Church Street, Geeveston 0407 056 972 www.tasmaniancraft.com.au

HUON PINE SALT & PEPPER

BLACKWOOD COFFEE TABLE

HUON PINE COAT RACK

WINTER HOURS 10.30am-4pm DAILY