

**21 July 2018**

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**Submission to Huon Valley Council regarding the Deep Water Export Facility proposed for Strathblane, Tasmania.**

**Thank you for hosting a public meeting about this very important issue. The proposed Woodchip Export Facility at Strathblane would be a major development in Tasmania's Far South with detrimental impacts on the marine and forest environments, wildlife that depend on these environments, community members and visitors to Southern Tasmania.**

Bob Brown Foundation hosted public meetings in Cygnet, Huonville, Hobart and on Bruny Island in June 2018 to raise awareness about the proposed woodchip export facility. More than 250 people attended the meetings. At the Huonville, Hobart and Bruny Island meetings a motion was passed in a majority, the attendees do not want a woodchip export facility in Dover. Particularly noteworthy, was the 115 people in Huonville Town Hall on the 19 June, that voted NO to this proposed development.

Our Foundation has produced a new short film to highlight the threats to the tranquil Port Esperance, the small businesses in Southern Tasmania and the habitat for the critically endangered Swift Parrot from this proposed woodchip export facility. Please see the film at this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4lFznF-6eY>

In December 2017, Chair of the Foundation, Bob Brown and Campaign Manager Jenny Weber attended the Public Meeting at Dover school. Dozens of people were left standing at the packed public meeting at Dover school, where Southwood representatives presented the case for a woodchip port opposite Dover in Port Esperance. Searching questions from the crowd met with strong audience applause. Unanswered questions included the size of the woodchip pile, exact involvement of overseas investors, and the impact on tourism. Despite assurances that trucks on roads would avoid residences, one local expressed dismay at the potential impact of noise on her property, "We're horrified, I may need to sell up," she said. The claim after repeated questioning on jobs, Southwood representative, SmartFibre General Manager Danny Peet, admitted acclaimed 145 direct and indirect jobs at the woodchip export facility amounted to 2-3 full time direct jobs and another 8-10 only when a ship is in port.

Southern and Far South Tasmania is habitat for many rare and endangered species that will be negatively impacted by this proposed woodchip export facility. The species that rely on the marine environment and the species that rely on intact native forests that will be logged to feed this export facility, including the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, Masked Owl, Tasmanian Devil and both species of Quolls, the spotted-tailed Quoll and Eastern Quoll.

In this submission we will focus on one of these species, the critically endangered Swift Parrot and the impact that the proposed facility will have on the parrot. Far South Tasmania, the Southern

Forests and the Huon region is critical habitat for the critically endangered Swift Parrot. This proposed woodchip export facility will push this species to extinction.

The 30 hectare port facility and proposed new access road (both on forestry land) are in prime Swift Parrot habitat. Critical breeding habitat, foraging and nesting habitat for the parrot will be cleared, is currently being cleared or will be impacted at numerous sites associated with this proposed facility including:

- The site of the proposed facility, possible up to 20 – 30 hectares.
- The native forests that the trucks will travel through from Southwood to the proposed export facility.
- Native forests that are currently being logged in the southern forests and forests that are on the logging schedule that produces woodchips.

The fastest Parrot on Earth, this brilliant little bird crosses Bass Strait from mainland Australia to Tasmania in three hours. The Swift Parrot breeds only in Tasmania. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's foremost authority on endangered species and has upgraded the status of the Swift Parrot to critically endangered. IUCN has recommended that all public lands that supports Swift Parrots need to be placed under secure conservation management.

Huon Valley Council as a local government authority has a responsibility to do all it can to prevent the further loss of habitat for the Swift Parrot. It should work with State and Federal Government to ensure the IUCN recommendation that all public lands that supports the Swift Parrots be placed under secure conservation management is realised. The Council can prevent the impact of the proposed woodchip export facility at Strathblane on the Swift Parrot and habitat by rejecting the proposed development.

Increased truck movements associated with this proposal pose a threat to Hobart, Huonville, Far South and Cygnet communities. In the past, increased log truck and b-double truck movements has been the key reason why the woodchip export facility at Electrona and Macquarie Point was a problem for residents who share these roads. Despite the proponent suggesting the truck route will take fully-laden trucks through the southern forests from Southwood site to Strathblane there are a number of ways these increased truck movements will impact rate-payers in the Huon Valley Council area and visitors to the region:

- there are private residences along the proposed route,
- tourists and residents who use the proposed route for recreation and visiting the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area,
- the need for these trucks to fill up with petrol that will bring them into the town centres.

There is a solution to the perceived problems of no export facility for the woodchips arising from logging in native forests of Southern Tasmania. That solution is to protect these unique native forests for their values to mitigating climate change, protection of wildlife habitat, clean air and water and the unique ecosystems that are found in Southern Tasmania's forests. Stop logging these forests and the woodchips are not produced.

A woodchip export facility in Strathblane or anywhere in southern Tasmania should not proceed for the reasons we raise above.