



**tasmanian conservation trust inc**

Letter to the Editor  
The Mercury

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**Need to admit the flaws of the forest practices system**

Forest Practices Authority Chief, Graham Wilkinson ('Forestry Facts', 30 April 2011), seems to want it both ways – he says our forest practices system is excellent and world class but that the guiding policies are inadequate.

I agree that many forest policies need changing by the state government, but the reason they need changing is that the current forest practices system is not delivering the environmental outcomes the community and scientists expect.

The FPA seem to agree the system has weaknesses but are shy to admit it. As a part of the review of the forest practices system, the FPA commissioned a 2009 report by the Biodiversity Review Panel (a group of eminent scientists, most of whom are independent of government) which has identified numerous weaknesses in respect to protection of biodiversity and made wide ranging recommendations for change. If these recommendations were implemented we might have a forest practices system which is effective and world class.

As explained by Mr Wilkinson, the implementation of these recommendations is being held up the Tasmanian Forests Minister Bryan Green who refuses to even consider changes to forestry policy and legislation. Stonewalling by the minister on delivering changes to the forest practices system will not help deliver peace in the forests.

Peter McGlone  
Director  
0406 380 545

Floor 2, 191 Liverpool Street, Hobart TAS 7000 Australia

**p** (03) 6234 3552 **f** (03) 6231 2491 **e** [tct6@bigpond.com](mailto:tct6@bigpond.com) ABN 63091 237520