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Waterhouse dam cannot be built

Tasmania's peak conservation group has today released advice from the Forest Practices Authority that the Waterhouse Dam, proposed for the Boobyalla River in Tasmania's northeast, cannot be built.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water has publicly stated that the failed Waterhouse Dam is one of the reasons that amendments to the Water Management Act will be rushed through parliament later this year. The amendments will, amongst other things, limit appeal rights.

However, in documents obtained by the TCT, Tasmania's Chief Forest Practices Officer advised the proponents of the dam in 2003 that the dam could not be built. He said at that time that "...my advice to you is that I do not believe that the Board's obligations under the RFA, the NHT 2 Bilateral Agreement and the Board's moratorium on clearing endangered forests would allow it to certify a forest practices plan for the clearing of the Waterhouse Eucalyptus ovata forest. In my view, any such forest practices plan submitted to the Board would be refused."

TCT Director Craig Woodfield says that the Tasmanian Government appears ready to once again ride roughshod over due process and common sense.

"It makes no sense at all to try and resurrect failed dam proposals such as Waterhouse. This Government appears to be 100% committed to repeating the mistakes of the past rather than moving forward."

"The TCT will leave no stone unturned in fighting the proposed Waterhouse dam."

Attached: Advice from Chief Forest Practices Officer on proposed Waterhouse Dam

Call Craig Woodfield on 6234 3552 or 0417 160 751 for additional comment