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Tasmania's future pollute or prosper?

The question of whether a pulp mill will go ahead in Tasmania's Tamar Valley has hit the national headlines.

The Greens are at the forefront of this campaign, not least because the Liberal and Labor parties at both a state and federal level have so comprehensively failed to insist on a robust assessment process.

Geoffrey Cousins (former advisor to John Howard, current Telstra board member and businessman) has helped gain national attention for this proposal by taking the matter directly to the federal environment Minister, Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr Cousins has said that Canberra should block approval of the Gunns proposal until we can be confident that a more transparent and rigorous assessment has been conducted.

Bob took Geoffrey Cousins on a visit to Tasmania's forests recently. After Mr Cousins had read Richard Flanagan's recent article in *The Monthly* magazine, he decided to join the community campaign that has built up in response to the utterly compromised assessment process recently concluded at the State level.

Only the Greens and 4 Independents opposed the legislation put to the Tasmanian Parliament to approve the mill.

Geoffrey Cousins and his supporters in Tasmania and the mainland have succeeded in putting pressure on both Malcolm Turnbull and Labor's Shadow Minister Peter Garrett (dubbed "the shadow Minister who casts no shadow" by Cousins due to his failure to provide a genuine opposition on this matter).

This is no longer an issue either Malcolm Turnbull or Peter Garrett can afford to ignore. In just two weeks, Mr Turnbull received more than 30,000 submissions in relation to the proposed pulp mill.

The Greens continue to represent the thousands of Tasmanians and Australians who oppose this pulp mill.

Recently, 11,000 people in Launceston, a city with a population of 100,000, marched in opposition to the mill. There are many good businesses, including vineyards, abalone and scallop fisheries, restaurants, organic farms, tourism and hospitality businesses, and other creative businesses in and near the heavily populated Tamar Valley who are distraught at the

News from

Bob Brown

The election campaign is well and truly underway! Once again, Tasmania looms large in the headlines - and the Greens are leading many of the debates. Bob has helped take the issue of the proposed Tamar Valley pulp mill to the mainland, where it is now firmly on the national political agenda. In this newsletter you'll find some detail on a few of the issues Bob has been working on in the community and in the parliament.

IS MALCOLM TURNBULL THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OR THE MINISTER AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT?



Advertisement that recently ran in Malcolm Turnbull's local paper, the *Wentworth Courier*

prospect of this mega pulp mill—one of the biggest in the world—being built in the heart of that clean green produce area.

There is enormous concern about the tonnes of effluent it will pump into Bass Strait each day. A recent report by scientist Dr Stuart Godfrey points out how toxic chemicals out of that effluent will contaminate fisheries in Bass Strait and wash back onto the beaches of the north coast of Tasmania and into the Tamar River itself. No wonder fishermen are alarmed.

This mill will consume some 200,000 hectares of native forest over the next 30 years.

The mill will need to use enormous amounts of fresh water, at a price other Tasmanian residents and businesses will not get, and it is going to pump carcinogens—cancer causing agents—into the atmosphere of the Tamar Valley. The Australian Medical Association has forecast more deaths as a result of pollution of the Tamar Valley, where pollutants are held in the valley by the inversion phenomenon.

If we are to have a pulp mill in Tasmania, it must be appropriately sited, use the existing plantation estate as feedstock and employ a totally chlorine free, closed-loop process. It must enjoy local support and be subject to a rigorous and accountable assessment process before it is approved. This mill is none of these things and that is why the Greens oppose this proposal.

Please support Bob!

click here to donate & help

Bob's campaign to be

re-elected to the Senate

<http://www.tas.greens.org.au/reelectbobbrown/>

Payrise for pensioners, not polities!

The Greens opposed the pay rise for politicians announced last month, arguing it was aged pensioners, not politicians who were due for a pay rise.

Bob wrote an article for the Sydney Morning Herald, an excerpt of which is included here. See below for the link to the full article.

"When Parliament resumes next week, politicians will have their hand out for a 6.7% pay rise, which will come on top of a 7% rise last year. Pensioners, on the other hand, have not received a real increase in the aged pension since 1993.

A single aged pensioner lives on about \$219 a week. To put that in perspective, John Howard, earns \$13,000 in a fortnight while a pensioner, in a year, gets \$13,652.

The Greens have called on Howard and the Opposition Leader, Kevin Rudd, to support a \$60-a-foort-night increase in the aged pension. An extra \$30 a week would go a long way to meet the rising costs of medicines, dental and health care and the grocery bill.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/opinion/pensioners-not-mps-need-a-pay-rise/2007/08/01/1185647977879.html>



WE CAN STOP THE MILL!

HELP KEEP THIS ISSUE ON THE BOIL:-

ring your local Member
write a letter to the paper
ring talkback
vote Green!

Emergency NT intervention: racist land grab & lost opportunity

Included below is an excerpt of one of Bob's speeches in opposition to the Coalition's NT emergency laws recently rushed through parliament.

See below for links to full transcripts

SENATE HANSARD EXTRACT August 13, 2007

"...The Australian Greens oppose the Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Payment Reform) Bill 2007 and related bills. They are an unprecedented and obnoxious assault on the rights of Indigenous Australians, in the run-up to this election, to advantage the Howard government and to further disadvantage the first Australians. I begin by recognising that this parliament, like everything that we enjoy in this country, is on Aboriginal land.

I bring to this Senate a message stick from the Gulkula meeting at Garma in the Northern Territory on 3 and 4 August this year. It is to the Australian parliament. It says:

Stop the legislation. Sit down and talk. No more dispossession...."

SENATE HANSARD EXTRACT August 16, 2007

"...I want that on the record, so that no-one reading about this moment in history 10, 50, 100 or 500 years from now can say, 'If only they had known what they were doing to Indigenous culture in Australia.' We all know. The government has made its choice... let nobody in this place say that they did not know what this would do to Indigenous culture, custom, law, language, pride and wellbeing into the future of this nation..."

...I want to put it on the record that we all knew that this was going to have a massive impact on Indigenous culture, particularly across Northern Australia where its stronghold exists after the devastating of such culture across southern Australia. Here we go again, but this time many of us care—and this time the eyes are wide open..."

Fools rushes in where angels fearlessly tread: another forest activist sued

Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmanian Police are suing Allana Beltran, a performance artist for damages over her tree-top performance in old growth forest.

In March 2007, Allana sat high upon a tripod, at the entrance to the Tahune Airwalk (a Forestry Tas. tourist attraction) as the "Weld Angel", with her feathered wings outstretched in a silent protest over forest destruction.

Allana pled guilty to a charge of trespass and was given a good behaviour bond with no criminal charge recorded.

The fame of Allana's performance lasted long after the tripod came down - her image featured in Richard Flanagan's article on Gunns for the May edition of *The Monthly* (see <http://www.themonthly.com.au/pastIssues/index.html#>) and has since been used in a national postcard campaign.

Geoffrey Cousins got involved in the pulp mill campaign after reading Flanagan's article. So it seems a strange move indeed that Forestry Tasmania and the Police should choose Allana to sue for police costs and lost revenue to the timber agency.

Upon hearing the news of the litigation, Bob said, **"This is a case of fools rushing in where the angel fearlessly trod."**



Election 2007: what about the Senate?

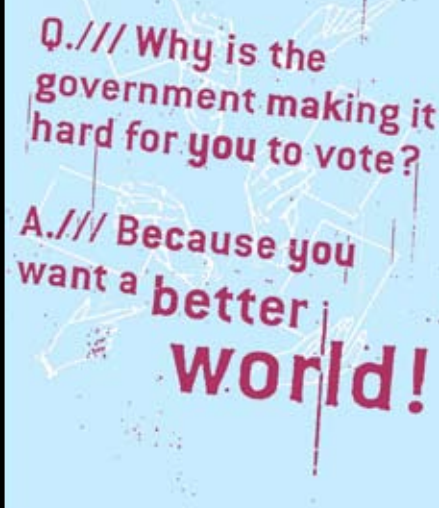
Regardless of who wins government at this election, Australians need an independent Senate as a check and balance on government power.

For over 10 years, Bob Brown and the Greens have been speaking out in the Senate for:-

- **real action on climate change**
- **proper funding of public health and education**
- **free dental care for all Australians**
- **bringing our troops home from Iraq**
- **saving Tasmania's ancient forests and wildlife from destruction**
- **stopping Gunns' polluting pulp mill**
- **raising the aged pension by \$60 per fortnight**

As the Leader of the Greens, Bob Brown is a powerful voice in Australian politics. Since 1996, he has achieved real gains for social justice, human rights and environmental protection.

Having Greens in the Senate will guarantee the strongest voice speaking out on the issues the big parties ignore.



Access to the fundamental democratic right to vote has been diminished by the Howard Government

When the 2004 election was called, 423 000 people enrolled to vote or changed their details on the electoral roll so they could cast a valid vote. These people had seven days in which to register. Now, people have three days if already enrolled, or less than one day if they are first-time or re-enrolling voters.

These changes will deny many young people their right to vote at the next federal election.

Now you have less than one day between the government calling an election and the roll for new enrolments and re-enrolments being closed at 8pm on the same day.

Don't let the Howard government stop you from having a say: Enrol Now!

The Coalition and the ALP voted together to support these changes. The Greens opposed these reforms because we want to make sure every eligible person can access their democratic right to vote.

If you are an Australian citizen aged 17 or older, you can be part of the solution. Pick up an enrolment form at any post office or visit <http://www.aec.gov.au>

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