

14 June 2012

The Hon Tony Burke MP  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Burke

On behalf of the Reference Group of Signatories under the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement, we are writing to provide a report on our progress to date and to formally request a short extension of time to enable us to conclude our negotiations.

Over the last month the Signatories have been working intensively and in good spirit in an attempt to reach an agreement which optimises wood supply, conservation and community outcomes. Significant progress has been made but there are still a number of difficult issues to work through. The attached report, which is provided in accordance with Clause 45 of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement, gives further detail on these issues.

As set out in the report, the Signatories believe that a short extension until 23 July 2012 is both necessary and valuable to enable us to complete some additional analysis and finalise our negotiations.

We have written in similar terms to the Tasmanian Deputy Premier, the Hon Bryan Green MP.

Yours sincerely



Don Henry  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Conservation Foundation  
On behalf of the environmental organisation  
Signatories



Terry Edwards  
Chief Executive  
Forest Industries Association of Tasmania  
On behalf of the industry Signatories

cc.

Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig  
Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and the Arts, the Hon Simon Crean MP  
Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Sid Sidebottom MP