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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AEF

As chairman of the Australian Environment Foundation I offer this message of support to the people of Tasmania as you continue on the path of sustainable development for your state. I know that some times that path becomes a difficult one to navigate. This is why I know you are here today.

The guiding principles for a development to achieve sustainability is valuing economic, environmental and social benefits.

The AEF is a forward thinking environmental group, we consider that people are an integral part of the natural environment and that people provide the means to protect and enhance it.

The AEF is therefore focused on identifying and promoting 'people friendly' solutions to environmental problems.

We take an evidence-based, solution focused approach to environmental and development issues.

In considering future development including your proposed pulp mill for Bell Bay I urge you all to consider the scientific evidence that has been supplied by independent consultants about the mill.

I am pleased that this evidence has been made available for all Tasmanians to view and to enable you to make informed choices and decisions about the development.

Sustainable development provides a continuing flow of benefits for the community. It is clear that you will receive substantial additional power into your state grid from the surplus generated by the mill. This is just one of the benefits for all to share.

Water is another natural resource we all depend upon. Studies show that the proposed mill water usage is unlikely to exceed an amount equal to 1% of the flow into the Tamar estuary.

I am also very interested in your salmon farming ventures, which appear to be another positive example of sustainable development that lessen the impact on the natural environment.

All around Tasmania different ventures are providing jobs and security to Tasmanians without causing harm to the environment. We need to be vigilant that this remains the case.

Development is required for the state to prosper. It is only through a healthy and dynamic economy that both the people and the environment progress.

My observations of the present debates in relation to environmental matters are that, at times the science-based evidence is being over taken by unscientific claims. This is very disappointing and sadly is not new.

The Australian Environment Foundation was formed to ensure that all sides of the debate on matters affecting the environment would be heard.

The AEF cares for both Australia and Australians and we are listening so that your aspirations receive proper consideration.

I'm sorry I can't be with you today, due to ill health, as I was looking forward to meeting you all and standing with your chosen speakers including your Premier, and Opposition Leader in support of sustainable development and environmental best practice.

Don Burke
Chairman
Australian Environment Foundation

