

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SAVEYOURLEATHERWOODHONEY ASSOCIATION INC FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30TH JUNE 2015

As members you will have received three detailed reports of the Association's activities during the year ended 30th June 2015.

The following is a summary of these reports:

1. Considering Forestry Tasmania's new Management Plan published in October 2014,
2. Summarising the Management Plan's provisions and identifying those parts affecting the Beekeeping Industry.
3. Attending a meeting with Forestry Tasmania to discuss the claim in the Plan that beekeepers were underutilising the Leatherwood resource in Tasmania by 46 % across all tenures.

At that meeting Forestry Tasmania officers admitted that the claim was not correct and should not have been made.

4. Receiving the mapping evidence from Forestry Tasmania showing the areas that they claim substantiates their Plan. The mapping was headed "Potential leatherwood" whereas the Management Plan stated with certainty that the claim was correct and in fact was used to excuse the "collateral damage" which occurs when coupes are clearfell and burnt.

5. Coordinating and taking part in the ground proofing of the areas shown on the Plan and upgrading/altering the mapping with the result, and briefing/updating Forestry Tasmania on that.

6. Reviewing 4 coupes from the 2013-2014 Wood Harvesting Plan, arranging/coordinating and attending ground inspections and making submissions to Forestry Tasmania for amendments to preserve the Leatherwood resource. One of these has now been referred for review under Forestry Tasmania's dispute provisions after the receipt of an unsatisfactory reply.

7. Preparing a first draft of new mandatory Guidelines for Leatherwood in State Forest . The present Guidelines were drawn by Forestry Tasmania more than 10 years ago, are not mandatory and are largely not followed by Forestry Tasmania and the wood harvesters This Draft is being considered by the Industry before being submitted to Forestry Tasmania.

8. Preparing a first draft of amendments to the Forest Practises Code which is the legislative basis for wood harvesting and the preparation of Forest Practises Plans which must be prepared and approved by the Forest Practises Authority before any wood harvesting can commence. This Draft is being considered by the Industry before being negotiated with the relevant Minister and Forestry Tasmania.

9. Considering the Tasmanian Government's proposal for management of the World heritage Wilderness and preparing a draft submission by the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association to the Government. The main interest of the beekeepers in the proposal is the question of access to beekeeping sites, the cost of upgrading/maintaining access and the expansion of access to the Leatherwood resource and thereby the Industry and the pollination services it delivers.

10. Receipt and consideration of the new 3 year plan for wood harvesting 2014 - 2016 (ongoing).

Finally a big thank you to the Secretary, Treasurer and other volunteers for their help during the year and also for the support of all our members.

Bob Davey (President).