

SAVEYOUR LEATHERWOODHONEY ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

BEEKEEPERS BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED

- 2005 Forestry Tasmania agrees to use voluntary guidelines for The Management of Leatherwood on State Forest.
- 2006 Huon District coupes are harvested retaining most of the leatherwood content, yet to be checked on the ground.
- All of 2006 and 2007 the Apiary Working Group set up with Government initiative works on the leatherwood resource issue part of which is to consider an enforceable leatherwood protection protocol, (ie a change to the Forest Practices Code) - there has been no progress to date on the “enforceable” component or the solution, due to resistance from members of the Group wanting only a voluntary protocol.
- The Premier is asked to intervene to ensure the Group delivers the necessary result, to which there has been no response.
- Aug 2007 Forestry Tasmania announces to Apimondia, (the World Beekeeping Conference in Melbourne), that they are now changing to a new harvest plan process which takes into account the leatherwood in all coupes.
- Aug 2007 Forestry Tasmania advise that 3 coupes in the Derwent District containing leatherwood must be clearfelled to produce urgently needed veneer timber for local mills. No leatherwood is to be retained.
- October 2007 a ground audit of the Derwent coupes is carried out and reveals that there were significant stands of leatherwood the loss of which translate into a loss of hive carrying capacity of 60 hives. This irreplaceable loss of the leatherwood resource is now beginning to impact on the pollination services the effected beekeeper can deliver.
- Nov 2007 appeal to the Premier and Forestry Tasmania to reassess the remaining 2 coupes to retain the leatherwood content.
- There was no prior consultation with beekeepers concerning the harvesting plan and the leatherwood content.
- There was no leatherwood assessment other than for Forestry Tasmania to state that the guidelines would be followed (letter 2006 to the Southern beekeepers). There was no streamside reserve protection.
- A Forest Planner confirms that while the leatherwood content of the coupes is acknowledged, instructions “from above”, are to obtain the veneer timber as the first priority. This essentially precludes selective harvesting according to Forestry Tasmania.

TIMBER HARVESTING REQUIREMENTS REIGN
SUPREME

NOW - VEGETABLE AND FRUIT PRICES ARE
RISING DRIVEN UPWARDS BY THE DROUGHT

SOON - VEGETABLE AND FRUIT PRICES WILL
RISE FURTHER DRIVEN UPWARDS BY LACK OF
POLLINATION SERVICES

WHEN WILL THE DECISION MAKERS IN
GOVERNMENT AND FORESTRY TASMANIA TAKE
THIS ISSUE SERIOUSLY ?