

REPORT BY THE SAVEYOURLEATHERWOODHONEY ASSOCIATION INC TO  
THE TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION -- FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
THE 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012.

The Association's principal activity has been advising and assisting the TBA in relation to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) relating to Forest Reserves and the Timber and Saw Mill Industries.

The purpose of our work was to identify the effect of the Agreement on the Apiculture Industry, if implemented. We also advised how it would be best to arrange for the Industry to have access to the decision makers in the process so as to ensure that the Industry's position and needs were taken into account in the creation of new forest reserves.

In conjunction with a TBA subcommittee appointed for the purpose, submissions were prepared both to the Independent Verification Group (IVG), and the Government, setting out the requirements of the Industry for continuity of access to and use of State Forest, if and when new reserves were created under the IGA.

The result of this has been the formal recognition of the Industry as a stakeholder in State Forest, (this recognition being contained in the Report produced by Professor West). It has also permitted the sending of a clear message to the Government as to the importance of areas of State Forest to the Industry, in particular many of the proposed new reserve areas containing mature leatherwood and being in the Southern, Central and Northern parts of the State.

The time taken on these matters has exceeded 20 hours for the submission to the IVG, in excess of 20 hours reviewing and advising on the 2500+ pages of Professor West's Report and in excess of 15 hours for the submission to the Government.

Parallel to this work has been the continuation of monitoring of Forest Practices Plans (FPPs), coupe inspections both pre and post harvesting and pre and post burns and the preparation of submissions for coupe boundary adjustments, and in some cases criticism of the harvesting plans and their failure to account for the retention of the leatherwood resource.

Having said this, the position is much improved in the Derwent District and there now exists the potential for improvement in the Huon District.

For example, in the Derwent District, there was no harvesting in the Counsel and Wedge Blocks this past year, minimal harvesting in the Florentine Block, and amendments to coupe boundaries to exclude leatherwood stands in at least 3 coupes in the Tyenna Block.

The position in the Huon District is not so positive but there has been one major change. It has been agreed that **all** FPPs must report on the leatherwood content and any other matter likely to affect beekeepers and state how this has been taken into account by the FT planner. In fact the plans must now make reference to the Industry even if the planner believes there is no mature leatherwood present in a coupe. As this is on a coupe by coupe basis, we now have the opportunity to check proposed harvesting before it occurs, make representations for leatherwood retention and also to carry out post harvesting inspections to monitor the effect of harvesting on beekeepers with sites within bee flying distance.

We are also making a case for the retention of immature leatherwood stands on the ground that this is the resource of the future and critical to the future expansion of the Industry.

We are continuing to monitor the FT harvesting plans and activity in the Black Bee Reserve with a view to keeping the floral resource largely intact. This is to ensure that there are no substantial resource losses while the TBA carries out an assessment of the Black Bee population, and initiates a draft management plan for the area. A separate report on this process is to be presented to this conference by Graeme Raphael.

An inspection of relevant coupes in the Reserve, (4 in all), is to be carried out in the near future.

FT states that it is only harvesting in the Reserve on a selective basis, with no clearfell and burn. The inspection will, hopefully, verify this.

We also had 3 opportunities to be interviewed by the print and electronic media which were gratefully accepted.

These interviews were in response to media releases which we make from time to time, and also as a result of forest and beekeeping issues being topical, as they are at the moment. For example the media is now well versed in the connection between the forest resource, the beekeeping and pollination industries and our food supply. Also biosecurity is very much in the public arena as is evidenced by a recent article in the Sunday Tasmanian dealing with the potentially devastating effect of Varroa Mite on the Beekeeping and Pollination Industries, if and when it arrives.

Bob Davey (President)