

21st April 2008

JODIE CAMPBELL

Member for Bass
PO Box 5035
Launceston
Tasmania. 7250

Dear Member,

FORESTRY SMOKE – TAMAR VALLEY

This is to confirm my conversation with your Bass office on 18/4/2008.

I rang to make you aware of the serious effects smoke from the forestry burn offs was and is having on my health.

In brief, I was admitted to accident and emergency at the LGH because of it. When I rang your office I had been home for five (5) days trying to recuperate; indoors on life support oxygen and all available medications.

The stink had come right into the house, into clothing, bedding, etc. and it could not be washed because of the smell outside. This smoke prevented me opening the windows for any fresh air.

On contacting the Environment Department they acknowledged they had received, "...quite a few complaints about it."

It is sad to think that I was taking up valuable resources in an already stretched A&E at the LGH because of the smoke. This apparent "couldn't care" attitude whether it makes people sick, how many have to remain couped up indoors, how many have to attend doctors and hospital, how many people die or suffer, is beyond belief here in our beautiful Tamar Valley.

Further, Mr. Peter Bird (Forestry Tasmania) made the comment on television when interviewed about the smoke being so bad it also ruined filming of Targa Tasmania, that Forestry did their (air) modeling and got it right! Well Mr. Bird got it wrong and I believe he should be removed from his job for such an outlandish statement to try and justify Forestry's harmful actions.

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This deliberate action to contaminate our local environment in such a foul and damaging way; to pollute the very air we breathe resulting in pain, suffering, wasted cost and resources to our community is inexcusable and needs to be stopped.

Your office indicated to me this matter would be raised by you with the State Minister for Environment (Michelle O'byrne) and I take it this is already in process. I have also asked for you to seek a response from the Federal Minister for Environment. (Peter Garrett). In the interim I look forward to your reply and support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott