



12 April 2006

The Honourable Minister for the Environment
Mr John Thwaites
357 Clarendon Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Dear Hon Mr John Thwaites,

Do you consider the recent response by Bruce McTavish from Vicforests on the 21 February 2006 (Attached) to the voting public's concerns regarding breaches to the code of forest practices adequate?

Do you consider that Mr Bruce McTavish's response addresses all of issues raised (Attached)?

Do you believe it is acceptable for public servants to be their own judge and jury in cases where members of the voting public raise questions about their work?

When will an adequate response be presented to us so that we can inform members of the voting public what the Government is doing about it?

When a minister is presented with evidence of a serious problem, what amount of time should voters expect to wait before that minister demonstrates that the problem is being investigated and acted upon?

Is investigation of a problem and possible solutions the role of the public, or do you believe the relevant Minister take the leadership role? If this leadership role is beyond what the public should expect from the relevant Minister, what is it that you believe they are elected and employed to do?

The Central Highlands Alliance Inc request an immediate senate inquiry into the current structure of the logging industry to address:

1. The DSE current review of the code of forest practices
2. The loopholes that are not being closed by this review
3. The fact that public servants are their own judge and jury in cases where the voting public raise concern regarding breaches of the law.
4. The subsidising by government of native forests for woodchips in competition with available plantation resources.
5. The misleading results coming from the EPA audits due to incompetence in sampling methods.

Regards;

Adam Menary

Vice President
The Central Highlands Alliance