



20 February 2008

Competition and Consumer Policy Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**Discussion Paper: Criminal Penalties for Serious Cartel Conduct**


The Tasmanian Forest Contractors Association (TFCA) represents businesses responsible for around 80% of the woodflows throughout the Tasmania. TFCA's members are a mix of small and medium businesses who operate in the highly competitive environments of harvesting, haulage and silviculture.

Given who TFCA represents, we are supportive of initiatives aimed at limiting cartel conduct. TFCA members must operate in competition with others and must utilise good business and commercial skills to develop a competitive advantage. In our view, cartel arrangements have the ability to significantly undermine these efforts. The resultant impact on small business and consumers is something that concerns TFCA.

Unfortunately though TFCA does not have the resources or expertise to critically examine and comment on the proposed legislation. Therefore other than indicate our general support for the intent of this draft legislation; TFCA is unable to provide more detailed comment.

We welcome any further opportunity to provide general comment as well as participate in any future discussion periods or seminars.

Yours sincerely  
TASMANIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



FERDIE KROON *BBus AIMM*  
Chief Executive Officer

*...We're assuring  
a sustainable future*

