



Tasmanian Public & Environmental Health Network (TPEHN)

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Pollution_Information_Tasmania

31 July, 2011

Tasmanian Public & Environmental Health Network withdraws from Environment Tasmania Inc.

In all conscience, TPEHN can no longer remain a member group of **Environment Tasmania Incorporated** and today we announce our intention to leave the organisation and advocate for the protection of public & environmental health in other ways.

Our decision has been taken because, in our view, **Environment Tasmania Inc.** has failed to advocate for that organisation's own core values - *'the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Tasmania's natural environment'* - with much needed reforms on public and environmental health issues.

In March 2010 a brochure about the public health impact of the widespread use of biocidal chemicals in Tasmanian agriculture and plantation forestry - *Warning! - Poisoned Water?* - was produced. The brochure highlights the chemical contamination occurring to the majority of water catchments which supply drinking water to Tasmania's cities and townships.

DPIPWE is currently reviewing the regulation of pesticides (AgVet chemicals) and aerial spraying; an issue that has been languishing now for 6 years.

TPEHN has been lobbying all parties to the *Tasmanian Statement of Forest Principles* to advocate for stronger and more detailed measures related to reforms in the management of forestry plantations. To our profound disappointment **Environment Tasmania Inc.** has failed to take this public health matter seriously during their negotiations on the *Principles*.

In our view, **Environment Tasmania Inc.** has also failed to take a strong lead on the current issue of pesticide reform.

Considerable community concern remains regarding the transition out of native forestry and increasing reliance on plantation monocultures that use pesticides (biocidal chemicals) mostly applied by aerial spraying methods and which ultimately contaminate drinking water and soils.

We will continue to advocate for reforms in the use of pesticides in the Island state that has been branded *'Clean, Green & Clever'*.

TPEHN will work for the abolition of many pesticides used in Tasmanian; chemicals that have long half-lives; are not safe; and are recognised as carcinogenic, genotoxic, immunotoxic or endocrine disrupting chemicals.

It will continue to work to protect our waterways and our health - essentially the health of our children, food and our environment.

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