



**Dorset Renewable Industries Pty Ltd**

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**DRI's Vision for the Tasmanian Forest Industry.**

Dorset Renewable Industries Pty Ltd is a community focussed enterprise aimed at developing new industries in the Dorset region of Tasmania's North East. By investing in the region's renewable resources, DRI will build community resilience, environmental sustainability, local skills and innovation. Our vision for the Tasmanian Forestry Industry is that it should have the following characteristics:

**Community focussed.** Community focussed enterprises are ones in which the triple bottom line benefits to the community are given a high priority in planning, approval, financing and operations decision making.

**Diverse.** Diversity brings strength and resilience; an industry which has a diverse range of owners, ownership models, tree species, products, sizes and locations of operations is more likely to weather economic and natural storms than one which relies on a few large scale operations with a narrow range of products and customers.

**Efficient.** An efficient industry is one which makes the most value of every tree. Materials which are waste from one process should become the feedstock for the next. This transfer of materials is more efficient if the facilities are co-located at the one site.

**Innovative.** An industry which is prepared to innovate and to support new approaches, new products and new ways of doing things is more likely to be resilient under pressure and to develop, than an industry which just does what it always has. Our vision for the Tasmanian Forestry Industry is for it to have an innovative mindset, to continuously look for ways of doing new things or doing existing things better.

**Local ownership.** Local ownership makes a difference to the economic value of an enterprise to its community. Compared with a multi-national company, a local company pays all its wages to members of the community, it sources expert advice from either the community or from adjoining ones, and most of its profits will stay in the community. The flow-on multipliers for locally owned businesses are higher than those for internationally owned businesses with identical operations. Further, local community ownership provides the highest economic value to the host community. Accordingly, DRI's vision for the Tasmanian Forestry Industry includes local cooperatives being a common ownership model in the industry.

**Local markets.** While the Tasmanian market is often dismissed as being too small to be of interest, with new ventures commonly being focussed on exports, this ignores the economic benefits to the State when a local supplier offers products and services which replace products and services which previously could only be sourced from outside

Tasmania. For example, the money spent by Tasmanians on pipeline and bottled gas largely leaves the State through economic leakage. Substituting the gas with locally sourced biomass energy will leave the money largely in the State.

**Skills.** A successful industry's culture of continuous improvement includes its people: their formal development (apprenticeships, study scholarships) and their skills.

**Sustainable.** An industry which is built around a renewable resource should be sustainable: capable of continuing indefinitely. Accordingly, the industry needs to ensure that its raw materials are replaceable with no damage to ecosystems or the services they provide. Further, the industry should have as a long-term goal to use only renewable energy throughout its operations. Enterprises should be clear about their sustainability objectives, and open and honest about their successes and their areas needing improvement.

### **Community acceptance of the forestry industry.**

DRI recognises that sustainability in the forestry industry is a very divisive issue amongst Tasmanians, and that this is an area in which agreement is likely to be elusive. However, an industry which is community focussed, diverse, efficient, locally owned and servicing local markets, innovative, develops its people well, and works hard to be sustainable is more likely to be accepted by more people than an industry which is none or only some of those things.

30<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.