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31 October 2006

Mr Julian Green
Chairman,
Resource Planning & Development Commission
PO Box 2036
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Sir

Re: **THE PULP MILL**

I have been instructed by my client to request that, by use of its powers pursuant to section 14, RPDC Act, the Commission require the Tasmanian Government to produce a report relating to the stability of Tasmania's Heavy Truck Fleet.

I enclose article from the Mercury Newspaper referring to that report.

I am instructed that the report is relevant to the Commission's assessment of the proposal. It relates in particular to the social and economic impact of the proposal, particularly having regard to the potential increase in log truck traffic on Tasmania's roads consequent upon the proposal.

Yours faithfully



MICHAEL BRETT

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12 OCT 2006

Truck fleet danger

MERCURY 17
MICHELLE PAINE

A REPORT the Government has so far refused to release has slammed the safety of Tasmania's heavy truck fleet.

The State Government has repeatedly said the report was not finalised, but the main findings were shown at a US conference in June.

Instability of log, woodchip and stock trucks were a major factor in Tasmania's heavy vehicle crashes, the presentation confirmed.

Among points detailed at a Pennsylvania truck weights symposium in June were:

Report confirms rollovers

● Log, woodchip and stock trucks rolled at and up to four times the rate of other trucks because of instability.

● 10 per cent of crashes involved a vehicle defect.

● Tasmania has ignored national maintenance standards.

● Tasmania must increase rollover stability of poorer-performing heavy vehicles.

Four people have died in Tasmanian log-truck crashes in under a year.

"My considered opinion is that a third of Tasmania's truck fleet would fall the national standard of SRT (static rollover threshold, a measure of stability)," Greens transport spokesman Kim Booth said.

"Everyone in Pennsylvania knows about Tasmania's unstable trucks but Infrastructure Minister Jim Cox appears to be in denial," Mr Booth said.

"I doubt any of Tasmania's

log trucks would pass the [national standard] SRT, which means the Government is playing Russian roulette with the lives of the drivers and the public."

Some of the data had been released after earlier surveys by the author, but Infrastructure Minister Jim Cox said the Government-commissioned Heavy Truck Safety report, by Transport Engineering Research New Zealand consultant John de Pont, was not ready.

"I am advised that, at the time of the Pennsylvania conference, TERNZ was still ana-

lysing the data collected by transport inspectors," Mr Cox said.

"I'm yet to receive a final report. I'll release the report when I've considered that."

The US conference summary refers to completed stability testing.

It backs three years of Mr Booth's comments about truck instability.

"If I couldn't talk about log trucks crashing whenever somebody had been hurt, I wouldn't be able to talk about it at all because they're rolling over on a regular basis," Mr Booth said.