



## The Forest Practices Tribunal Appeal Hearing against PTR 1698

The first day, 21 February, involved a tour of inspection of the proposed private timber reserve as well as visits to the properties of five of the Prescribed Person's [those people whose land is within 100 metres of the private timber reserve area.]. About 16 people participated in the tour which took from 10 am till 6.30 pm.. Bob Loone represented the public interest and Andrew Ricketts represented TEA.

The participants saw the land from numerous sites including from Deloraine and the Great Western Tiers Tourist Route. They saw where the land adjoins both the Reedy Marsh Forest Reserve and the Brushy Rivulet Forest Reserve [Secure State Reserves]. They observed other PTRs in Reedy Marsh and looked at potentially dangerous stretches of the roads. Except for one excursion on to the land itself to look at a stump that featured in a photograph in the proof of evidence of Gunns Ltd., the entire tour of the Porter land took place from the roadside.

All the parties went on to the land of the Prescribed Persons. The tour culminated at the property of John King [one of the Prescribed Persons] on Porters Bridge Road. Everyone was looking at the panorama of the forested hills of the Porter land from the far side of the Shoulder of Mutton Plain when someone said "Look, an eagle!".



As everyone turned to look someone else called out "There's another one!" They were mesmerising as they circled down the valley over the Porter property. Some moments later came "There's another one!" as a third magnificent bird soared across the sky to join the first two. People stood and watched in awe, sharing this timeless experience.

Day two, 22 February, started with some preliminary matters and then Gunns Ltd commenced presenting its witnesses. This took most of the remaining time, 22 to 24 February. So far about 80% of Gunns evidence has been presented.

The order of proceedings from now is that Gunns completes its evidence followed by the Porters, then Private Forests Tasmania and the Forest Practices Authority. After all the witnesses for the proponent have been heard it will be time for the appellants. At this time we do not know in what order these will be heard. We expect to know after the next sitting.

There has been a steady stream of interested people attending in the gallery, including some very well behaved youngsters. We hope this will continue. If you haven't been in the audience yet, do make the effort to see part of the next sitting just to get an understanding of the procedures. This will really help you when it's your turn to swear your evidence.

Having a good attendance in the gallery is also valuable to demonstrate to the Tribunal the degree of the public interest in the matter. Do come and feel free to bring a friend or two as well. Let other people know about it too. Anyone can attend so long as they are quiet and respectful.

