

28/4/2008

To All Board Members and CEO

Asthma Foundation of Tasmania
139 New Town Road
New Town
Tasmania. 7008

Dear Board Members,

Special Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday 1/5/2008

This is to confirm my telephone conversation earlier today with Ms Cathy Beswick, CEO.

It was in relation to statements made on behalf of the Asthma Foundation which were published on page 4 of the Sunday Mercury last, in particular, "...Some people say we are not looking after the best interests of people with asthma, but we can't become a lobby group." Ms Beswick acknowledges she was quoted correctly.

In talking to Ms Beswick it became clear on several occasions that the Foundation's main priority is to look after those who fund the Foundation (the Government and certain businesses) and not to those in the community who have asthma. To do this, means that the Asthma Foundation has in fact become a lobby group against asthmatics as there can be no sitting on the fence on this matter.

In relation to what the Foundation is doing about all the forestry wood smoke that is making Tasmanian asthmatics sick, Ms Beswick went on to tell me that, "...Forestry was being unduly blamed."?

I feel the "Mission Statement" of the Asthma Foundation as a whole, has been severely tarnished by its Tasmania branch not lobbying on behalf of all asthma sufferers in Tasmania to stop the smoke from deliberate forestry burns.

In relation to what is being done for asthma sufferers; it appears to date not even a follow up meeting with the State Minister for Environment (Michelle O'Byrne) has been asked for to put the views of asthmatics and to get some binding commitments. Why not?

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Attached please find a copy of a letter I sent to Bass MHA (Jodie Campbell) and State Environment Minister (Michelle O'Byrne) which is self explanatory and I am writing to ask for the Asthma Foundation's total support in the matter of stopping forestry smoke.

I look forward to your comments after you have had a chance to meet this week as advised, and perhaps decide to reconsider the primary goals of your Foundation.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott.