

## **WESTERN RIVERS PRESERVATION TRUST**

### **PURPOSES OF THE FOUNDATION**

**The Foundation is established and shall be maintained exclusively for the purpose of maintaining the Mole Creek and Mersey River catchments (“the catchments”). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing purposes of the Foundation shall be:**

- (a) To carry out:**
  - (i) a testing of the catchments;**
  - (ii) development and implementation of plans; and**
  - (iii) provision of services and facilities for the maintenance of the health of the catchments.**
- (b) Pay all costs and expenses of and incidental to the above or to any of the acts matters or things herein mentioned and all other cost expenses which the Trustees think necessary or desirable to incur in connection with any of the Trusts in this Deed;**

**PROVIDED THAT save and except as hereinafter provided the purposes of the Foundation shall not include the making of gifts or any other distribution of any capital or income of the Foundation to any restricted persons.**

**Aims- As Adopted at First Meeting of Trust 04 March 2006**

### ***“ Western Rivers Preservation Trust ”***

**AIM-** To preserve the character, flow and purity of the water in the Western Rivers.

**Factors for:**

- (1) The Mole Creek, Lobster Rivulets and streams supply the drinking water to Mole Creek and Chudleigh, and they are tributaries to the Mersey.
- (2) This water flows through a naturally occurring Limestone Karst.
- (3) Selective logging does not damage the Karst, and has provided an income and job security in the valley for over 100 years it is suggested that this should continue.
- (4) The catchment areas on the Western Tiers are currently forested, despite selective logging. This remnant form of vegetation appears to be functioning well in terms of filtration and water purity and quantity.

**Factors against:**

- 1) The introduction of Private Timber Reserves (PTR) into Tasmania takes private land outside the jurisdiction of Local Councils and environmental protection legislation.

- (2) The catchment area for both the Lobster and Mole Creek Rivulets is subject to PTRs on private land. This allows for clear felling and replacement with plantations.
- (3) Clear felling allows sediment into the Karst thereby affecting downstream water quality as evidenced by recent clear felling above Caveside.
- (4) The replacement of native cleared forest with plantation timber requires the spraying of herbicide and other chemicals; these will leach into the Karst and provide cause for long term health problems to downstream residents.
- (5) Meander Valley Council provides no alternative to natural fresh water. Mains supplied water is an expensive proposition for Local Government
- (6) Reduction of water quantity in rivers as a result of plantations.

**CONCLUSION**

1. We should support traditional logging on the Karst as has been practiced without detriment to water quality.
2. We will oppose clear felling and plantations in the catchment headwaters of all the Western Rivers.
3. The Meander Valley Council must make provision for the supply of uncontaminated non catchments area mains water to Chudleigh and Mole Creek, or support the cause of local ratepayers to provide natural pure water.

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