

4th August 2003

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The General Manager and Directors and Secretary,
National Association of Forest Industries Ltd. - NAFI,
PO Box E89,
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BY FAX: (02) 6285 3855

BY MAIL: NAFI, PO Box E89, Kingston ACT 2604

BY EMAIL: enquiries@nafi.com.au

Dear NAFI and Directors and Secretary,

RE: DEFAMATION OF ME IN NAFI PUBLICATIONS

You have published and currently continue to publish on your website (www.nafi.com.au) defamatory comments about my website Discover-Tasmania.com and therefore those publications are of and concerning myself.

I am also identified by name in your publications.

The said defamatory comments which include a description of my website as being *bogus* relate to your re-publication of a Hobart Mercury article by journalists Ellen Whinnett and Sue Bailey.

Your publication of the word *bogus* is without justification and is intrinsically injurious.

A publication was made on your website at:

<http://www.nafi.com.au/news/view.php3?id=332> and has been removed on the 11 July 2003 following my request to you by correspondence dated 2 July 2003 and the directors and secretary of NAFI by correspondence dated 9 July 2003.

A publication continues to be published by a NAFI newsletter at;

<http://www.nafi.com.au/files/newsletter/NAFI%20eNews%20No%2012.pdf>
which I assume has been distributed to all your members.

This continued publication is considered by myself to be authorised by your directors and secretary and an aggravation of the matter by NAFI and its directors and secretary.

In the course of the said publications headlined by the word *bogus* there appeared the following:

- A. *"The head of Tourism Tasmania has attacked an anti-forestry website set up to mirror Tasmania's official visitor page."*
- B. *"The website, located at 'discover-tasmania.com', has apparently been set up to mirror the official Tourism Tasmania website, 'discovertasmania.com.au'."*
- C. *"....a "direct hit" on the state's reputation, threatened visitor numbers and could have a multimillion-dollar impact."*
- D. *"Very obviously someone is deliberately seeking to damage Tasmania's reputation,"*

The imputation of those comments, and also in conjunction with the word **bogus**, were (inter alia) that I had set up a counterfeit or forged or fraudulent version of an official Tasmanian Government website by virtue of it being a mirror and/or bogus (which it is not and never has been) which amounted to a misrepresentation. Consequently your publication imputes that by virtue of the misrepresentation I was someone who was improperly and/or illegitimately and/or fraudulently reporting and illustrating conduct in the Tasmanian forests and as such I was responsible for:

- (a) deliberately seeking to damage Tasmania's reputation by that reporting and illustrating the said conduct when the said conduct is the actual reason for any damage; and
- (b) thus causing Tasmania and its tourism industry to suffer potential damages;
 - (i) by loss of visitor numbers; and
 - (ii) by losses in the region of multi-millions of dollars.

Your use of the word **bogus**, and the further comments and the resulting imputations are utterly groundless, extraordinary and most serious. By reason of your conduct I have been injured in my reputation and have inter alia, been brought into ridicule, odium and contempt.

TAKE NOTICE

I am not inclined to engage in legal proceedings against you or any of your directors or secretary. Accordingly if you immediately remove the said newsletter from publication and publish a retraction and apology in a manner and in terms agreed upon by myself, together with an assurance that untrue comments will not be repeated in the future, I will take the matter no further. Unless such a removal, retraction, apology and assurance is given I will have no other option than to issue proceedings to obtain a vindication. In the event of proceedings being filed, claims will include damages, aggravated damages and costs. You should regard this as an open offer.

I would be obliged if you would give this matter your most earnest attention and in the event I do not hear from you before **Tuesday 19th August 2003** I will take it that there will be no agreement between us in this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Gordon Craven