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Professor Ross Garnaut
Level 2 | Treasury Place
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Dear Professor Garnaut

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday in Adelaide to discuss the progress of your Climate Change Review. Your Interim Report to government outlines the major challenges all jurisdictions face in responding to climate change. I am delighted that you have agreed to assess the role of the forestry sector in climate change as part of your forthcoming report.

The contribution of the forest sector towards climate change and global warming is an issue of importance for Tasmania and all the other Australian states. Advocates and opponents of the sector have both quoted various sources to support their position that the sector is either a net emitter or a net sequesterer of carbon. This has created public confusion.

An independent and transparent assessment of the role of the Australian forest sector in addressing climate change will be an important contribution to moving forward on climate change policy.

I am committed to immediate and sustained action in Tasmania to reduce our contribution to climate change, adapt to some of the changes that are already inevitable, and contribute to national and global solutions. That is why I recently commissioned Dr Kate Crowley, a leading environmental academic at the University of Tasmania, to prepare an innovative framework for State government action to reduce our greenhouse emissions. I intend progress Dr Crowley's recommendations, and I have established a Tasmanian Climate Change Office which will coordinate our efforts. By doing so, I want my government to lead by example.

Our work in Tasmania will also be guided strongly by our commitment to achieve emissions reduction benchmarks set by our community through our *Tasmania Together* initiative. These reductions are consistent with our commitment to reduce the state's emissions by at least 60% by 2050.

I believe that your final report will provide valuable contribution to our efforts across the Tasmanian community to move forward, and I thank you again for meeting with me in Adelaide.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Lennon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline that extends under the word "Lennon".

Paul Lennon
Premier

22 February 2008