

Legal Clarification sought

Forestry Tasmania is seeking legal clarification about the extent of commercially sensitive information that should be publicly released.

Executive General Manager Hans Drielsma said Freedom of Information legislation specifically recognised that it was not always in the public interest for commercially sensitive information to be released. For example, an organisation's capacity to achieve the best possible price either as a buyer or seller, would be compromised if the minimum price was publicly disclosed before negotiation.

Dr Drielsma said a recent ruling by the Ombudsman in relation to the release of costs associated with the Going Bush television series required legal clarification.

"The ruling goes beyond this particular case and has the potential to seriously impact on Forestry Tasmania's commercial competitiveness. It is important for all the parties that we seek a clarification on the intent of the legislation and we will therefore be seeking a review of this administrative decision."