

Your say

Trouble at mill

RE TOM TABART'S 'Greens still a potent political force' (NS 25/3) I would have to agree there is some truth in Paul Recher's observations.

Several years ago we were told we must stop selling woodchips to Japan and value-add by having our own pulp and paper mills.

Before the recent State elections the Tasmanian Greens vowed that if they had any political clout in the new government they would block the proposed pulp mill for Tasmania.

They can't expect people to play with them if they keep shifting the goalposts.

If Ken Steele's 'Short and Sharp' (NS 25/3) is indicative of the irrationality at the grassroots level, there is worse to come.

How are we going to reduce the world's population from 6.5 billion to 1 billion? Capture and humanely de-sex five-sixths of them?

Perhaps if we ban farming and vaccination, famine and disease will do the job for us.

BRIAN MULCAHY,
Tooloom.

Fluoride claims

WITH 60 to 70 per cent of the population wanting fluoride in their tap water, Rous Water can relax, shelve their plans and

all that expenditure for metering, storing, legal challenges etc. because it will not be long before soft drink manufacturers catch on and promote their drinks 'with fluoride', 'with added fluoride', 'with super fluoride' and similar slogans.

It will be a great boost to the market share of the manufacturer who signs an exclusive deal with fluoride suppliers.

Of course, as these drinks are heavily laden with sugar, the addition of fluoride to them will be nicely targeted; they may even be able to claim — in addition to their tags 'with fluoride' — 'lower dental bills' or 'guaranteed against tooth decay'.

The minority, those of us not wanting the wonderful benefits of fluoride, will need products guaranteed '99.99 per cent fluoride free'.

Relax Rous Water, let the market meet this burgeoning demand!

COLIN COOK,
Bangalow.

Bund must go

LONG after the collapse of Bond Corp, a legacy of the company continues to affect people in the Tweed and Byron shires.

The Kalaroo bund, in the Golden Beach subdivision, is an illegal levee wall built in 1992 that has caused flooding problems ever since.

Remarkably the Kalaroo bund was built by Byron Shire Council and contains just 2x900mm pipes to take the runoff water from 1400ha of land.

According to Mooball resident Eade Foyster, the result of this 'cork in a bottle' has been prolonged flooding for residents in both shires.

Mr Foyster says that since the bund was installed, floodwater can take an extra four days or more to subside at Woolung, which is more than 4 kilometres from the bund wall.

Flooding and waterlogging caused by the bund also affect the livelihood of farmers in the affected area.

Graham Martin, president of the NSW Canegrowers Association, said that cane production losses and other costs due to excess water were around \$1 million.

Residents of Golden Beach along Hardy Avenue are also affected.

During the June flood last year floodwaters overtopped the levee bank on the southern side of Golden Beach causing damage to local property.

In 1996 the Department of Natural Resources made \$420,000 available to Byron Shire to fix the problem. But the shire has done nothing to improve the situation.

At least three studies have been carried out recommending



SLOW DOWN: Speed limits on the Pacific Highway should be set at 80 or 70km/h where there is no divided road and dual carriageway according to letter writer Henri Virtanen of Alstonville.

the bund be demolished.

It is little wonder that Tweed Shire Council has been forced to take action against their southern neighbour to protect cane farmers and residents affected by the bund.

Chairman Mooball Crabbes Creek Drainage Union

G. J. MARTIN,
President NSW Canegrowers

Speed trap

RE: Speed on the Pacific Highway, and the letter 'Staying Alive' (NS 5/4) by J Huttley.

He calls for a limit of about 75mph, which equals about 120km/h.

Do you, sir, mean 75-80km/h? As I see it, the speed limit between Sydney and Brisbane should be a maximum of only 70km/h.

This is the case everywhere where the Pacific Highway is not a divided carriageway with two lanes each way.

That means that where the carriageway is undivided, with only one lane each way, there should be a maximum speed of 70km/h.

HENRI VIRTANEN,
Alstonville.

(We're sure Mr Huttley meant km/h, not mph — Editor)