

MERCURY

www.themercury.com.au

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014

\$120 incl GST

12 - MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014

yourtasmania

Mayor deserves better

THE July issue of the *Monthly* magazine contains an article by me about the fall of Gunns Ltd and the decline of Tasmania's woodchip industry.

The article is about 9000 words in length. About 400 of those words reflect an interview with the Mayor of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Bertrand Cadart. About 40 of his words have supposedly caused such offence to the local population that, according to at least half of his fellow councillors, he should resign.

This is a ridiculous demand. Cadart may have put it indelicately, but at least he spoke frankly, which is a step up from most politicians. Gunns closed the local woodchip mill in 2011 for simple economic reasons. Cadart wants Triabunna to look to the future, not backwards. He wants Tasmania to "turn the corner".

The local outrage to his choice of words proves his main point: many Tasmanians prefer a small picture over a big one. Does that make them "the most bogan of bogans"? Maybe, maybe not, but at one point in the interview, Cadart revealed the depth of his frustration with local recalcitrants by saying, "I don't give a shit about these people."

He didn't quite mean it like that, of course. If you read the full quote in the article, it's clear that Cadart is expressing his surprise that someone like Graeme Wood, whose green politics Cadart does not share at all, should care so much more for "these people", to the extent that Wood wants to create dozens of new jobs for them via his glamorous Spring Bay Mill project.

John van Tiggelen
Castlemaine, Victoria