

Executive Commissioner,  
Resource Planning and Development Commission  
GPO Box 1691  
HOBART, TAS 7001

**Comment on the Pulp Mill Integrated Impact Statement:**

Tasmanian and importantly the North East region is set to reap the maximum economic and employment benefits if the proposed pulp mill for Bell Bay is approved.

My focus of research within the Integrated Impact Statement IIS shows that a mill would lift the state's economy by \$6.7 billion in the first 23 years of the mill. Most positive is the pulp mill will create 1,600 long term direct and indirect jobs.

Equally positive is during the construction phase, up to 2,000 jobs will be created, with about half employed to build the mill itself. The employment prospects are a great win-win for the North with the creation of skilled career jobs for our local youth and at the same time bringing career seekers to our region.

Key points of the Integrated Impact Statement (IIS) shows:

- A new pulp mill in Tasmania will be clever, clean and safe.
- It will create thousands of jobs.
- It will improve our economy.
- It will use woodchips that are otherwise exported.
- Tasmania will remain the most conserved nation/state in the world.

A new mill will source its woodchips from those currently being exported from our sustainably managed native forests and plantations. Over 45% of the State's native forest is reserved including one million hectares of old growth forest and almost 1.9 million hectares of high quality wilderness are permanently off-limits from timber harvesting. It is clear that the mill will not compromise our forests.

The IIS shows that the mill must meet stringent environmental controls set by and monitored by the State and Federal Governments. These strict, world-leading standards will ensure the minimization of possible pollutants in the marine mixing zone four kilometers offshore in Bass Strait and any emissions released to the atmosphere.

It's very important that these marine emissions will be at extremely low levels, well within the limits and standards set by the Commission and very pleasing to read that Gunns IIS shows that the human health impacts have been studied by appropriately qualified and experienced experts. Their conclusions satisfy me that there will be no adverse health impacts from the mill.

Whilst located in the industrial area of Bell Bay the mill is set to enhance the North East region by bringing new jobs, new wealth, new neighbours and a vibrant community to the region.



Tom Cox