

To: enquiry@rpd.c.tas.gov.au
From: John Henshaw
Date: 18/08/2006 11:19AM
Subject: PROPOSED PULP MILL - DRAFT IIS SUBMISSION

Executive Commissioner
Resource Planning and Development Commission
3rd Floor, 144 Macquarie Street,
GPO Box 1691
HOBART, TAS 7001.

18th August, 2006

Dear Sir,

PROPOSED PULP MILL - DRAFT INTEGRATED IMPACT STATEMENT

I wish this e-mailed letter to be accepted pursuant to the public submission opportunity afforded by the Commission.

I can not comment on the technical aspects of this very complicated matter. I will leave that to persons more experienced in these matters.

I can, however, comment of the present and likely future dangers of heavy log-truck traffic - in my instance related to the East Tamar Highway/Georgetown Road designated A8.

The Commission should be aware that private contractors, delivering logs to the present wood chipping facility, are paid on a "ton-delivered" basis. There is an inherent fault in this system that encourages not only the shortest possible round-trip time but also the heaviest possible load per trip. The consequences of this can be witnessed, unfortunately, by travelling the A8 - as we have to in order to access Launceston.

My wife and I choose to use our car's cruise control to limit our speed to the designated speed limit or such lower limit as determined by the weather and/or road conditions. The consequence of this is that log-trucks frequently "tailgate" our vehicle - wanting to travel faster than the speed limit. This is particularly noticeable because of the topography of a large proportion of the A8 where trucks build up speeds on downhill sections in order to have a "run" on the uphill sections. We have lost count of the number of instances where we have been intimidated by very close tailgating (so close one can not see the following vehicle's number plate in the rear view mirror!). Similarly, we have lost count of the number of instances involving seeing other vehicles either being tailgated or the subject of reckless and irresponsible behaviour on the part of the truck drivers. The most extreme of these involved a loaded log-truck, accelerating on a downhill slope, passing a vehicle travelling in the same direction that was clearly indicating its intention to do a right hand turn by passing on the vehicle's right and completely crossing the double lines with on-coming traffic! This was reported to the Police in Launceston, as, indeed, have many other instances.

This sort of behaviour makes travelling the A8 - and other roads frequented by log-trucks - a daunting business and not one to be taken lightly, to say the least. It is unfair that the motoring public should be subjected to such irresponsible and bullying behaviour. Perhaps - God forbid - only a major accident involving something like a school bus, will bring home to authorities the dangers presented by these trucks.

The proposed pulp mill will produce not only more log-truck movements but movements of caustic chemical loads with attendant additional dangers.

Therefore, I wish this submission to be addressed to matters of public safety which, already bad, will be exacerbated by the proposed pulp mill.

Yours faithfully,

W.J.D. Henshaw