

17 August 2006,

Executive Commissioner
Resource Planning & development Commission
GPO BOX 1691
Hobart
Tas 7001

Dear Commissioners,

RE: Gunns proposed Pulp Mill

I am a resident of Southern Tasmania with a young family and I am writing to you to persuade you to not support the Gunns Ltd proposed pulp mill development. Even though I reside in Southern Tasmania, the forests and timber resources of this State (on crown land) are collectively shared by all Tasmania citizens.

My objection for opposition to this project is based on environmental grounds:

- Whilst the technology may be the best available at this time – in terms of lowering pollutants and emissions released – there **will be some impact** on the local environment.
 - The **need for water for this enterprise is ‘voracious’** and water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource in Australia with global warming on our doorstep. In order to supply this mill with its water needs, will require the damming of rivers, change watercourses, etc etc . This need to supply the mill with enough water will leave a huge environmental footprint on the Northern Tasmanian environment, The Gunns mill will always be in competition for water in Northern Tasmania against other enterprises and individuals eg future agricultural uses.
 - The profitability of Gunns pulp mill was modelled on the production of a certain volume of wood chips which are then made available for sale. Gunns have admitted that their **supply of plantation timber (at start up) will not meet the production levels required** and they will make up the deficit of timber by taking it from Tasmania’s beautiful natural forests. For how many years? What guarantees can be given about this time frame? I am afraid that once the investment has been made and the mill is up and running – Gunns are likely to be given a ‘Carte Blanche’ to top up any shortfall in plantation timber supplies from Tasmania’s natural forests at any time. No mill should be promised or made operational until the supply of plantation timber is secured.
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- Low rainfall has hampered the growth of Gunns plantation timber to below expected levels at this stage – how will Tasmania’s natural forests regrow in the future with this low rainfall – slowly as well!
- Using Tasmania’s natural forests as a source of timber for the pulp mill widens the loss of diversity and habitat even further.
- Gunns requirement to use Tasmania’s natural forests to top up the shortfall in timber required for profitable wood chip production, **is in addition to its current quota** of timber for wood chip exports!

Why don't we just hand over our collective State Timber resources to Gunns! It seems our collective resource is out of control of the people anyway! We are pretending when we allow Gunns to say that our forests will be managed in a sustainable way.

Please don't allow this mill to proceed.

Yours Sincerely,



Christine Challis