

The Executive Commissioner
Resource Planning and Development Commission
GPO Box 1691
Hobart
TAS 7001

It has come to my attention that submissions are due to the Resource Planning and Development Commission regarding Gunns' pulp mill proposal.

It is all too easy to criticize proposed developments because of fear of change. However, in this case, I believe criticism of the proposal is warranted.

It epitomizes environmental vandalism for several reasons. It would extract vast numbers of trees from Tasmania's forests; this would have well-documented effects on soil, water, air and biodiversity. The emissions into the air from this mill would contribute to an air pollution problem in the Tamar Valley which is already one of the worst in the world. To source the water needed by the mill from Trevallyn Dam seems bizarre.

Although Tasmanians are complacent about the abundance of water in this state, we are becoming increasingly aware of how precious our water is, after one of the driest winters on record. Is it coincidence that the Meander Dam looks set to go ahead now, after twice failing to get enough interest?

To exploit the characteristics of Tasmania which endear it to those who come here, for the sake of questionable short-term financial gain, seems very short-sighted. The returns from selling pulp appear to be pretty low; and Gunns' financial situation is allegedly far from adequate to build the mill in the first place. Would the project to be sold off-shore, ensuring that any profits do not come to Tasmania? I believe that other timber enterprises could be established more cheaply, which would use fewer trees, and generate more jobs and more financial profit per tree.

A pulp mill would mean extra truck movements on roads that were not built for heavy vehicles, which increases the danger to motorists, including the tourists on whom the Tasmanian economy depends.

Last year I had some visitors from the south of Germany. When they learned of the intention to build a pulp mill here, they were horrified. There is one near where they live in Germany, and they have seen it poison the landscape. They encouraged me to fight tooth-and-nail against having a pulp mill built here!

Yours sincerely,

Clea Eykelkamp

**Handwritten submission. Typed by RPDC.*