

Cathie Plowman

Submission to the Resource Planning and Development Commission
Re the
Gunns Draft Integrated Impact Assessment

Dear Commissioners

I am a citizen of the West Tamar area and I have serious concerns should the proposed pulpmill be allowed to be developed.

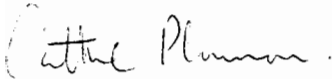
My areas of concern are as listed below:

- 1) **Cost and economics.** I am concerned about the amount of public money that has already gone into this project. I understand that about 250 long-term jobs will be created by this development and I don't believe that the argument that development creates jobs is good enough, especially when such a small amount of long-term jobs result from huge public investment and environmental concerns. I am also concerned that the pulpmill will end up being owned by overseas interests and any profits from the mill will not remain in Tasmania or even Australia.
- 2) **Water pollution.** A huge amount of polluted water will be discharged into Bass Strait every day. This is unacceptable. My concerns are for the fishing industry, the marine environment, the possible health effects on people who eat fish from the area and the effect on places where these pollutants become concentrated.
- 3) **Air pollution.** I suffer from a chronic respiratory illness despite being a non-smoker and being physically active. I cannot link my illness to life in the Tamar Valley but it commenced just 12 months after coming to live in Launceston. Respiratory disease is a major health issue in the Tamar Valley. The proposed pulpmill will discharge toxic gases into the environment. This is not acceptable.
- 4) **Transport Issues.** The mill will result in a large increased of heavy, large and fast vehicles on Tasmania's roads. There are already too many such vehicles. Will the pulpmill owners have to pay the cost of upgrading and maintaining roads? I don't expect so as this hasn't happened with other industries.
- 5) **Noise pollution.** I live near the Batman Bridge and with increased traffic there will undoubtedly be an increase in noise pollution in the West Tamar area.
- 6) **Light pollution.** The Bell Bay industrial area gives off excess light pollution in the River Tamar area (e.g. Beauty Point, Kelso, Rowella, Kayena). Such

light pollution will increase should the proposed mill be allowed to be developed.

- 7) **Water usage.** A large volume of water will be required every day. There should be a closed-loop of water being used so that this precious resource is not being wasted.
- 8) **Forest destruction.** I realise that the timber input to the proposed pulpmill is outside the area of the Commissions enquiry. However, the mill will require the ongoing destruction of Tasmania's native forests. It will require the conversion of more farmland to tree plantations. This in turn will have impacts on water catchments and water ecology.
- 9) **Other waste effluent.** I understand that toxic materials will be stored in the ground and I am concerned about leaching into local water catchments.
- 10) **Lifestyle in the River Tamar area.** The proposed mill will significantly impact on the lifestyle of local people. The West Tamar community voted against the mill at the last local government elections. Some residents are already leaving the area anticipating that the mill be allowed to proceed.

Thank you for considering my submission



Cathie Plowman
8 September 2006