

Your Ref

Our Ref :

Officer :

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Resource Planning and Development Commission



2 October 2006

Mr J Gay
Executive Chairman
Gunns Limited
PO Box 572
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Dear Mr Gay

GUNNS LIMITED
- PROPOSED BLEACHED KRAFT PULP MILL AT LONG REACH,
NORTHERN TASMANIA

DIRECTIONS HEARING

I am writing to advise that the Commission will hold a Directions Hearing to assist prepare for the public hearing into the Gunns proposal. The Directions Hearing will commence at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 25 October 2006 at the Tamar Valley Centre, Albert Hall, Launceston. It is essential that Gunns' legal representative attend the Directions Hearing. It is unclear at this stage how long the Directions Hearing will take – the Commission is allowing for the possibility that it may take 2 days.

Public notice of the Directions Hearing will be given in the 3 Tasmanian newspapers on 4 and 7 October 2006. As stated in the public notice the Commission will only hear from selected submitters who lodge a written expression of interest to be heard.

The purpose of the Directions Hearing is for the Commission to give directions to the proponent and other parties to ensure that all preliminary matters have been dealt with prior to the commencement of the actual hearing. For example, the Directions Hearing will address the question of how the Commission and all other parties and participants will be afforded the opportunity and time to comment on additional information provided by Gunns on the Draft Integrated Impact Statement (IIS). This includes the:

- Supplementary Air Quality Assessment of Proposed Pulp Mill, 8 August 2006, Pacific Air & Environment
- Erratum to Toxikos Reports dated 28 August 2006

Section 1.4.4 of Volume 1A of the Draft IIS indicates that 'further hydrodynamic modelling at a 50 m resolution and in three dimensions will be presented to RPDC prior to, or as part of, the Panel Hearings'. At the Directions Hearing Gunns should advise when the results of this further hydrodynamic modelling will be provided to the Commission and made available to the public.

As of 5 September 2006, the Commission has sought from Gunns the following information:

- Request for additional wood supply information
- Request for impact assessment on marine environment, including avifauna
- Request for marine health risk assessment – similar to human health risk assessment report
- Request for review of Toxikos Air Report in light of Supplementary Air Quality Assessment of Proposed Pulp Mill, 8 August 2006, Pacific Air & Environment report
- Request for review of Aquenal monitoring program – effluent composition and power analysis (Appendix 27)
- Request for analysis of land and housing demand trends; impact on property values; impact on accommodation; impact of workforce on housing demand
- Request for more thorough assessment of impacts on *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* listed species, mitigation measures – management etc
- Request for election of chemical preparation for bleaching preferred option
- Request for fauna report to be provided in a readable form

At the Directions Hearing the Commission will invite Gunns' legal representative to make a submission indicating when all documentation, including the information listed above, will be available to the Commission and the public. The submission will need to cover the amount of time required for consideration of that documentation by the Commission, its consultants, government agencies, non-government agencies and the public. Gunns should also be prepared to indicate when it would be ready to commence the hearing proper having regard to the above.

Gunns will be invited to indicate how it intends to deal with its response to the additional matters required by the Commission and the issues raised in the Commission's consultants' reports. Furthermore, Gunns should be prepared to indicate how it intends to deal with responses to the issues raised in the public submissions, particularly the matters raised in the more substantive submissions such as, but not limited to, the Tasmanian Government, the Australian and Tasmanian Greens, the Wilderness Society Inc and those submissions that raise matters of a technical nature and which comment specifically on the Draft IIS.

In providing such an indication at the Directions Hearing Gunns should demonstrate to the Commission how the response method proposed facilitates the Commission's ability to progress the assessment in an orderly and timely manner, taking into account the opportunity for public comment and input whilst at the same time fulfilling the requirements of natural justice.

Other matters to be considered at the Directions Hearing are:

- Timing for the provision of additional information and response from Gunns to requests by the Commission;
- Timing for exchange of expert witness proofs and copies required;
- Time required by the Commission to consider additional reports, comments and submissions and prepare for the public hearing;
- Site inspections;
- Date, time and place of the public hearing proper.

Gunns will have the opportunity of responding to peer review reports prepared by the Commission's consultants. These reports will be made public. Gunns' response to the reports should be presented to the Commission at least 14 days before the commencement of the hearings proper. As mentioned, the date for that hearing will be considered at the Directions Hearing on 25 October 2006. Reports listed below from the Commission's consultants will be forwarded to Gunns as soon as possible:

- Beca AMEC Limited
- CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research
- Farley Consulting Group
- URS Forestry

A report has been requested by the Commission from the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology and will be made available to Gunns following receipt of same by the Commission. The report will review Appendices 21, 22, 23, 58, 59, 60 of the Draft IIS.

A CD with the majority of submissions received on the Draft IIS will be posted to Gunns for comment and response as soon as possible. The CD will not include every submission received. Those submissions of a pro forma nature will be forwarded at a later time.

Yours sincerely



J O Green
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

cc Mr Tim Power, Freehills