



16 December 2004

MEDIA STATEMENT

The Tasmanian Resource Planning and Development Commission's Assessment Panel for the proposed pulp mill will include a representative of the Australian Government.

The Federal Government accepted Tasmania's invitation to nominate a representative in the interests of developing an integrated assessment process that addresses all State and Federal issues.

In accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the Federal Department of the Environment and Heritage has received notification from Gunns Limited of its proposed development.

The notification is available on the department's web site www.deh.gov.au and the public has ten working days to make public comment.

The RPDC is in the process of preparing draft guidelines that Gunns will be required to follow in the preparation of its draft Integrated Impact Statement. A preliminary draft of the guidelines will be placed on the RPDC's website www.rpdc.tas.gov.au.

The guidelines will be amended to take into account the Australian Government's involvement in the approval process and then the RPDC will invite public comment, early in the New Year.

When the draft guidelines are settled, to the satisfaction of the RPDC, the public will have at least 28 days to comment before the final guidelines are issued.

Issued by Mr Julian Green
Executive Commissioner
Resource Planning and Development Commission