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TASMANIANS TAKE TO THE STREETS AGAINST GUNNS' MILL *AS SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE CLOSES IN A WEEK!*

What a stunning turnout in Launceston on Saturday 16 September! Northern Tasmanians were joined by people from all over the island in a mass rally of protest through the city streets. The *Sunday Tasmanian* reported a crowd of 8000 people who marched from Civic Square to City Park with the message, **'Pulp Mill - Not worth the risk!'**

Peg Putt and I were there as part of a strong Green contingent, along with mums, dads, grandparents and children. Members of Launceston's business establishment were also among the crowd, further proof if any was needed, that Tasmania's clean, green brand is precious and worth preserving for our future prosperity.

Organised by the Wilderness Society, the rally galvanised the growing voices of protest against a mill that would pollute land, air and sea as well as trash our precious native forests.

Protecting the Public Purse

"The strong turnout should signal to Prime Minister Howard that taxpayers do not want their dollars directed as subsidies to Gunns."

Senator Christine Milne, addressing Launceston's rally, 16 Sept 2006

To date, the Commonwealth has committed \$5 million (+\$500,000 GST) to propping up the Gunns' mill. The Tasmanian Government has so far committed \$6 million. In total, that's \$11.5 million that won't be spent on hospitals, schools or public housing in Tasmania.

The RPDC deadline for submissions is:
Monday, 25 September, 4:30pm
See our handy submission writing guide and template online at www.tas.greens.org.au, or call our office for assistance.

If you haven't done so already, I urge you to make a brief submission to the RPDC. The Tasmanian Greens have prepared a Submission Writing Guide which can be downloaded from www.tas.greens.org.au, or contact my office to be sent a copy.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the proponent's IIS raises a lot more questions and rings more alarm bells than Gunns led us to believe it would when we were promised the 'world's greenest pulp mill' in 2004.

The bottom line is that the pulp mill Gunns' wants to build at Long Reach in the Tamar Valley fails the fundamental tests of the 'precautionary principle' and 'intergenerational equity'. We owe it to our children, and theirs into the future to campaign against this polluting mill every step of the way.

Kim Booth MHA

GREENS PULP MILL CONTACT



Kim Booth MHA

Member for Bass and the Tasmanian Greens Pulp Mill spokesperson

(03) 6336 2294

greensnorth@parliament.tas.gov.au

www.tas.greens.org.au

COUNTDOWN: YOUR PULP MILL SUBMISSION... *1 week to go...*

Making a submission to the RPDC on Gunns' proposed pulp mill Integrated Impact Assessment (IIS) is your opportunity to have a say.

Every submission is important!

- Submissions can be a page or two long and still make the necessary salient points
- Our office has prepared a Submission Writing Guide, which may assist in preparing effective submissions. Download a copy from www.tas.greens.org.au, or contact us to receive a copy.
- Your submission should address any potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed mill.

Submissions must be with the RPDC by 4:30pm on MONDAY, 25 September 2006.

So **NOW** is the time to make your submission on the Draft IIS to the Commission.

For more information on the RPDC PoSS process see:
<http://www.rpdc.tas.gov.au/projects_state_signif/pulp_mill/pm_dwnl/ln_tegrated_Assessment_Information_Brochure_130706.pdf>

HELL ON WHEELS

While Gunns won't release current figures on log truck movements to and from their three chip mills, media reports estimate that in the past Long Reach has exported up to 2.5 million tonnes of chip annually which equated to 327 log trucks per day.⁹

That means hundreds more log trucks on the road each day, a dozen of them carrying chemicals such as Caustic Soda, Sulphuric Acid and Hydrogen Peroxide to the mill.

There is a potentially devastating cost to human life on the roads as a result. A recent report by Transport Engineering Research New Zealand (TERNZ) found log trucks are at least 2.5 times more likely to roll than other heavy vehicles.³

Then there is the economic cost to the wider community.

Deutsche Bank Research states:

*"The damage to a road caused by a 40 tonne truck is roughly equivalent to that from 160,000 passenger cars."*⁴

A VERY THIRSTY DINOSAUR OF A MILL

The South Esk Catchment

Gunns Ltd. proposes to draw an estimated 26 BILLION litres of water each year to supply production, with only a fraction of this recycled.

Each day, this public resource will be pumped through the mill then out into Bass Strait as part of a 73 million litre daily effluent load.

If Gunns had lived up to its initial promise to build a mill that was Totally Chlorine Free (TCF) and closed loop, water supply and use would not be the grave issues of concern they are as a result of the IIS.

Hydrologist, David Leaman, has forty years experience in his field in Tasmania. In his submission to the RPDC, Mr Leaman says, "I could find no satisfactory reason in the IIS, other than profit, for avoidance of the closed-loop continuous circulation with occasional top ups."⁵

"Use of the closed loop completely avoids the extra piping to sea, any possible long term problems there, and at the same time provides some extra circulation at the Launceston end of the Tamar River."

Plantations Compete For A Scarce Resource

As Dr Leaman rightly points out in his submission to the RPDC, farmers and communities in Northern Tasmania have long been concerned about the impact of heavily water-dependent plantations on their lives and livelihoods.

It is estimated around 17% of Tasmania's available farmland (approx. 85,000 ha) has already been converted to plantation.⁸ The Gunns' IIS proposes to utilise a total plantation estate of 170,000 hectares. The potential impact on already strained rural and regional water supplies is severe.

Dr Leaman states, "The company is well aware of the well publicised friction between farmers and plantation owners, and other communities and forest developments. Many individuals have expressed concerns and my files are full of their worries or complaints.

"These are community concerns. They are not mentioned or even alluded to. Why not?"

Why not indeed? Put this question to the RPDC...

STOP PRESS!!

GUNNS DEADLY ERROR ON DIOXINS REVEALED AT LAST MINUTE

An erratum report from Toxikos Pty Ltd concerning dioxin, the most deadly substance produced by the proposed Pulp Mill, quietly appeared on the Gunns' website on Friday, 15th September.

This Report showed that 45 times as much dioxin would now be emitted by the Pulp Mill as previously calculated with the figure increasing from 0.074 pg TEQ/L to 3.376 pg TEQ/L.

"A fundamental error of such magnitude, particularly concerning a massive increase in the production of a poison such as dioxin, recognised as one of the most deadly substances known to science, must have an effect on the RPDC assessment process as all those who have prepared and submitted comment so far have been working to reports that have now been revealed as being fundamentally flawed," said Kim Booth, Greens Pulp Mill spokesperson.

It is also reasonable to ask why the Erratum only appeared on Gunns' website on Friday September 15th when the covering letter from Toxikos Director Roger Drew states that the company alerted Gunns to the error on 29 August 2006, more than two weeks previously.

This means many submitters would be unaware of the change.

This change relates to the Human Health Assessment section at Appendix 22 Volume 10, so it is no minor matter.

"It may not have been intended as an abuse of process designed to adversely affect the ability of submitters to prepare a thorough case based on the most current information, but that is certainly the effect," Mr Booth said.

"If this process is to retain any shred of credibility the RPDC must address this issue immediately and demonstrate what steps it will take to allow all those who have commented or are to comment on the Gunns IIS the time to reassess their submissions based on this new and startling information."

IT DOESN'T ADD UP

The Tasmanian Government and Gunns' Pty Ltd would have Tasmanians believe there will be no prosperous future without the Long Reach mill. The opposite is closer to the truth.

The potential long-term environmental and social costs of the mill would ensure Tasmanians were paying heavily for Paul Lennon and John Gay's shortsighted folly for decades to come.

In its report on the Gunns' mill proposal, Commonwealth Securities (CommSec) states,

*"As a higher cost producer, Gunns will be extremely vulnerable to any downturn in pulp prices."*⁶

The Centre for Independent Forestry Research (CIFOR) warns that investors are failing to properly assess risks associated with large-scale, industrial pulp mills.⁷

And if this mill were to go ahead in its current location and form, what of the opportunities lost in making the transition to clean, green and clever? This assessment process fails to examine the wider employment issue:

- Jobs lost in tourism
- Jobs lost in forest-based tourism
- Jobs lost in agricultural industries due to increased plantations
- Jobs lost in service industries supporting rural communities.

REFERENCES and LINKS

Sources referred to in this publication include:

1. Gunns' Draft Integrated Impact Statement, <<http://www.gunnspulpmill.com.au/iis>>.
2. Community Impacts and Response (CIR), Submission to RPDC, September 2006, pgs. 17-19.
3. An Assessment Of Heavy Truck Safety In Tasmania, John de Pont. Transport Engineering Research New Zealand (TERNZ), pgs. 4-5.
4. Demographic developments will not spare the public infrastructure, Deutsche Bank, Current Issues, 7 July 2006, p. 8.
5. Submission: Draft IIS - GUNNS LTD PULP MILL PROPOSAL, Dr David Leaman, Leaman Geophysics, August 2006, pgs. 11, 12.
6. Commonwealth Securities Ltd. (CommSec) report on Gunns, 30 May 2006.
7. Centre for Independent Forestry Research (CIFOR), May 2006.
8. Stateline Tasmania, ABC Television, 15 September 2006.
9. The Examiner, Reporter Tom Ellison, 9 August 2006.

Having trouble accessing the links? Please contact the Tasmanian Greens on (03) 6233 8300 for help.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

A united, informed community *can* defeat this mill.

Make a submission...

... to the Resource Planning and Development Commission. The IIS can be viewed at <www.gunnspulpmill.com> and guidelines at <www.rpdc.tas.gov.au>. The closing date for submissions is **Monday, 25 September 2006, 4:30pm.**

Contact the media

Letters to the editors and calls or e-mails to talk-back radio make a big difference. This helps decision-makers gauge public opinion PLUS maintains community debate.

Letters to the Editor

The Mercury

Macquarie St, Hobart 7000

Fax: (03) 6230 0711

E-mail: <mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au>

The Examiner

PO Box 99A, Launceston 7250

Fax: (03) 6334 7328

E-mail: <editor@examiner.com.au>

The Advocate

56 Mount St, Burnie 7320

Fax: (03) 6498 7852

E-mail: <letters@theadvocate.com.au>

Talk-Back Radio

ABC Mornings is a local Tasmanian daily talk-back radio program.

ABC Tasmania

Local Talkback - (9am - 12noon)

Ph: 1300 222 936

E-mail: <tasmornings@your.abc.net.au>

Also keep an eye on <www.tas.greens.org.au> for updated information.

SUBSCRIBE! You can receive this newsletter via e-mail or post; just ring or e-mail us.

MORE INFORMATION

Phone: (03) 6233 8300

E-mail: greens@parliament.tas.gov.au

Contact your elected representatives

The Lennon Labor Government, the Tasmanian Liberal Party, Federal ALP leadership and the Howard Government back the proposed Gunns mill. Let them know this outdated, greed-driven mill will come at too high a cost for Tasmanians for decades to come. Below is a list of both federal and state parliamentarians to contact. [Please send a copy of your concerns to the Greens' pulp mill contacts listed below.]

STATE PARLIAMENT

For each below post to:

c/o Parliament House, HOBART 7000

Labor

- Premier Paul Lennon (Franklin)
- Michelle O'Byrne MHA (Bass)
- Jim Cox MHA (Bass)
- David Llewellyn MHA (Lyons)
- Michael Polley MHA (Lyons)
- Heather Butler MHA (Lyons)

Liberal

- Peter Gutwein MHA (Bass)
- Sue Napier MHA (Bass)
- Rene Hidding MHA (Lyons)

Greens

- Kim Booth MHA (Bass)
- Tim Morris MHA (Lyons)

FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

For each below post to:

c/o Parliament House, CANBERRA 2600

Liberal

- Michael Ferguson MHR
- Senator Ian Campbell - Federal Minister for the Environment

Greens

- Senator Christine Milne



Tasmanian Greens State Parliamentarians, from left. Tim Morris MHA (Lyons), Peg Putt MHA, (Denison), Nick McKim MHA (Franklin), Kim Booth MHA (Bass)