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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Tasmania's Integrity Commission is a powerless misnomer**

Given his concluding comments in the Determination under s.38 *Integrity Commission Act*, that state the catalyst for establishing Tasmania's Integrity Commission was logging company Gunns Limited's proposed pulp mill, community group Friends of the Tamar Valley said the 'shortcomings' exposed in the 31-page document are the IC's complete failure to properly investigate all the complaints received in respect of Gunns and its pulp mill project.

"In drafting its Integrity Commission Act 2009 it seems the Tasmanian Government made quite sure the Commission would be completely unable to do its job properly. Calling it an Integrity Commission is both a misnomer and a sham, and once again the government has played Tasmanians for fools," said FTV spokesperson Anne Layton-Bennett.

"The conclusion is the Integrity Commission was only ever intended to be a 'toothless tiger', since the government deliberately rendered it incapable of properly investigating any of the serious, and valid complaints that have been lodged in respect of Gunns, the pulp mill, and government involvement in the approval process," Ms Layton-Bennett said.

"When the government finally responded to public demands for an independent commission of inquiry Tasmanians believed it would be a powerful watchdog, and an organisation that would ensure inquiries into government and bureaucratic involvement in issues such as the pulp mill – like those involving current and former Tasmanian politicians Bryan Green, Steve Kons, Paul Lennon and Linda Hornsey – would no longer be necessary."

"But what Tasmanians now realise they've been given, is a large and expensive watchdog that has had all its teeth and claws removed," Ms Layton-Bennett concluded.

**For further information please contact Anne Layton-Bennett between 9am – 10.30am only**

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