



Friends of the Tamar Valley Inc  
Email • [friendsofthetamarvalley@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthetamarvalley@gmail.com)  
Post • PO Box 5181 Launceston TAS 7250

MEDIA RELEASE

04/11/2013

### **Community opposition to the pulp mill will never stop**

Following KordaMentha's announcement it is seeking Expressions of Interest in Gunns Limited's remaining assets, community group **Friends of the Tamar Valley** confirms community opposition to the pulp mill project did not disappear with the Tasmanian logging company's demise in September 2012.

In addition to 175,680 hectares of freehold land and road infrastructure, 96,850 hectares of hardwood and softwood plantations, assets include an *"opportunity to develop the proposed Bell Bay pulp mill"*.

"It doesn't matter who wants to build it, the pulp mill will never receive community acceptance or a social licence, and any potential buyer should be aware that opposition remains just as entrenched and ongoing now as it did ten years ago," said FTV spokesperson Anne Layton-Bennett.

"The issues of road deaths and respiratory illnesses created by a pulp mill, for example, which have previously been acknowledged by parliament, are now carefully ignored by both major parties. It sadly appears that money wins over community safety and welfare, and Section 11 of the highly controversial and fast-tracked Pulp Mill Assessment Act 2007 **prevents compensation.**"

Friends of the Tamar Valley also disputes the economic benefits of a pulp mill that are claimed by both premier Lara Giddings and Liberal Opposition leader Will Hodgman.

"If the pulp mill was as economically viable as is being suggested by both Ms Giddings and Mr Hodgman, then surely it would have attracted the necessary finance when Gunns was seeking investment in the project," said Ms Layton-Bennett.

"The last potential joint venture partner, Richard Chandler Corporation, was swift in its assessment. The company's team did the due diligence, found it seriously wanting, and rejected it."

"Instead of continuing to talk up this unsound project that has mired Tasmania in controversy, and caused years of unnecessary anxiety and uncertainty for the community, Labor and the Liberals could - and should - have been pursuing a variety of cleaner, smarter and safer economic alternatives that are more suited to Tasmania's size, population and natural assets," Ms Layton-Bennett concluded.

**For further information please contact:**

**Anne Layton-Bennett – before 11am only**

**Ph: 6328 1231 or mob: 0429 221 243**

**References:**

*AMA submission to the RPDC 2007*

[http://www.amatas.com.au/assets/ama\\_position\\_statement\\_pulp\\_mill\\_25\\_sep\\_2006.pdf](http://www.amatas.com.au/assets/ama_position_statement_pulp_mill_25_sep_2006.pdf)

*TasRoundtableSustainableIndustriesProjectreport1(Aug07).pdf – pages 18 & 54*

*Gunns Draft IIS, Vol. 15 Appendix 43.*

