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Media Release

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Community opposition to the pulp mill remains strong

Responding to the latest announcement made by KordaMentha - receivers of failed Tasmanian timber company Gunns Limited -that it has fielded "at least one binding offer for the [pulp mill] licence from overseas", community groups **Friends of the Tamar Valley** and **Pulp the Mill** once again remind KordaMentha that community opposition to the pulp mill has not suddenly disappeared, but is just as strong now as it was when the project was first proposed over ten years ago, due to the inevitable detrimental effect it will have on the health and well being of everyone living in the valley.

"Any investor seriously considering purchasing the pulp mill licence and site should realise opposition to the Tamar Valley pulp mill certainly didn't end with the collapse of Gunns, and there will continue to be strong and determined community resistance to any company with plans to build it," said spokesperson Anne Layton-Bennett.

"Given Gunns' timber assets have now been sold to New Forests company, who have repeatedly stated they have no interest in building a pulp mill, permits for the mill can only be considered all but worthless. With no ready access to plantation feedstock for a pulp mill how can any serious investor possibly consider it a viable prospect?"

"Tasmanians have been told countless times there are buyers 'interested' in the pulp mill, yet no serious investor has ever materialised. There's a very good reason for that. Quite apart from the corrupted approval process the pulp mill never made economic sense, and no proper risk assessment has ever been undertaken," Ms Layton-Bennett said.

"It's time the pulp mill permits were declared void, and both KordaMentha – and the major political parties - recognised the pulp mill dream is over. It will never be accepted by the community, and for the majority of Tasmanians the pulp mill has been nothing but a ten-year nightmare," Ms Layton-Bennett concluded.

Reference:

<http://members.jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2014-08-22/story/cloud-chemical-smell-settles-over-glynn-academy-sickening-one-student>

(Given the high incidence of power outtages do we really want to risk this type of situation occurring in the Tamar Valley and Launceston?)

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<http://www.pulphemill.org/contact.html>

