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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **PREMIER GIDDINGS ADMITS APPROVAL “WAS A MISTAKE”.**

Tamar Valley community group, ‘**Friends of the Tamar Valley**’, (FTV), are dismayed and outraged that Premier Lara Giddings is considering using public funds to again prop up the pulp mill project being proposed by private company Gunns Ltd.

Less than 24 hours after becoming Tasmania’s new Premier, **Lara Giddings** admitted that **the approval of the pulp mill was a mistake**, while giving strong indications that the proposed pulp mill may yet go ahead **with more Tasmanian Government financial support**.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/new-tassie-premier-revives-pulp-mill-dispute/story-e6frg6nf-1225994529026>

Gunns Ltd has received generous assistance from the Tasmanian government since the pulp mill was first mooted.

**Now Tasmanians are expected to guarantee at least \$2.5 billion to underwrite a private company project.**

Relative to the Gunns pulp mill, Tasmanian taxpayers will have funded;

- **\$2m** for the ‘Pulp Mill Taskforce’

<http://www.greenleft.org.au/node/38119>

- **\$239,008** for an unused pipeline culvert

[http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2010/01/22/123321\\_tasmania-news.html](http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2010/01/22/123321_tasmania-news.html)

- **Free** access for a pipe line easement

- **\$300 million** (minimum) over the mills lifetime.

<http://www.wilderness.org.au/files/nieir-jan-08.pdf>

- **\$5m** Federal grant for IIS development

<http://tasmaniantimes.com.index.php?/article/mill-doing-the-sums>

By providing further assistance Premier Giddings will be benefiting Gunns and its interstate shareholders at the expense of Tasmanian taxpayers, who will bear the costs of all the financial and environmental risks, as well as suffering the impact from odour and pollution from an unwanted industrial project that will provide limited returns.

Instead of uniting Tasmanians, Premier Giddings has chosen to continue the divisive policies of her predecessors, who as a result of their stubborn support for the pulp mill resigned with historically low approval ratings.

### **Friends of the Tamar Valley Inc**

