

MEDIA RELEASE

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Media Release – Gunns’ Pulp Mill

No Community Support for Forest Peace Agreement

Community group Friends of the Tamar Valley today rejected the ‘Kelty forest peace agreement’.

"The community will never agree to a pulp mill being built in the Tamar Valley," said Bev Ernst, spokesperson for FTV. "The decision by pro-mill advocates to include Gunns’ pulp mill proposal in the Forest Statement of Principles facilitated by Bill Kelty was made without any consultation with, or endorsement by, Tamar Valley community representatives."

"The current health risks associated with the region’s air shed inversion problems are well documented, and the medical profession has previously warned that fine particulate matter from pulp mill emissions will exacerbate these risks, significantly adding to the number of deaths from asthma, and other respiratory illnesses."

FTV urges the ENGOs to refuse to sign the agreement while it continues to include a clause that supports the building of a pulp mill.

FTV and other community groups remain dedicated to ensuring a large, inappropriate and environmentally destructive pulp mill is never built in the Tamar Valley.

"While FTV agrees with, and recognises the importance of preserving Tasmania's forests and heritage is vital, saving them must not be at the expense of allowing the construction of a pulp mill with its potential to damage the health and livelihoods of over 100,000 people who live and work in the Tamar Valley," said Ms Ernst.

"Alternative options for preserving Tasmania’s forests have failed to be properly considered in the forestry Statement of Principles brokered by Mr Kelty. The Redd Forests’ proposal that would see economic, social and environmentally positive outcomes as a result of leasing 500,000 hectares of Tasmania's native forests for carbon storage and credits for up to \$2.5B over 25 years have been either ignored or inadequately considered, Ms Ernst concluded.

Premier Lara Giddings has previously indicated that a Statement of Principles agreement would assist Gunns in obtaining its proposed pulp mill.

