

MEDIA RELEASE

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Media Release – Gunns’ Pulp Mill

There’s more to the Tasmanian forestry issue than its ailing industry

Tasmania’s forestry crisis is currently receiving plenty of media attention. Few people will dispute the state needs a forestry industry, but times have changed, and like many industries and businesses in the modern world the forestry industry needs to change and restructure in order to remain viable and sustainable.

Attached is a copy of a Dossier, prepared by community group Friends of the Tamar Valley, that provides well-researched and scientific evidence why the Tamar Valley should never have been considered a suitable site for a pulp mill of the scale of Gunns Limited’s controversial proposal. FTV believes the argument against a pulp mill being built in the Tamar Valley is far from being a NIMBY argument; it is a very real health and safety issue for the region’s 100,000+ population.

The Dossier is simply and clearly laid out - please take the time to read it.

FTV also has deep concerns that while an enormous amount of research has been conducted on a small area of Bass Strait’s Commonwealth waters, there has been no research conducted on the significant potential for any adverse effects the mill might have on the broader economy of the Tamar Valley and Launceston.

This region is home to a diverse range of thriving local businesses that includes: vineyards, tourism ventures, fishing, and agriculture, yet no risk analysis has ever been undertaken to assess how these enterprises, which are significant contributors to the Tasmanian economy, might be affected by the pulp mill’s toxic emissions and effluent.

The risks to the population’s health due to an increase in pollution, foul odours, winter fogs, log and poisonous chemical truck movements, and threatened water supplies, have never been adequately addressed.

