

A BETTER TASMANIA

Special Pulp Mill Advisory



www.tapvision.info

Putting the community first

Summer 09/10 edition

Price \$1.00

Valley filled with toxic stench?

All kraft process pulp mills produce tens of tonnes of toxic gases per day, called foul gas by mill workers. It smells like a mix of stale sewage, rotting cabbage, rotten eggs, rotting seaweed and burning rubber. It can be detected up to 55k away.

The Boyer newsprint mill on the Derwent River does **not** use the kraft process..

The area in Northern Tasmania affected by Gunns' proposed mill includes Launceston, Deloraine, Longford and Bridport.

Pulp mill foul gas can impact severely on people's health, causing nausea and headaches in most people exposed to it for long periods.

Gunns' proposed mill will burn foul gas in a 3-tier odour control system. But the gas must pass through kilometres of complex piping before it can be burnt.

Like tap washers and gaskets, many hundreds of special seals are used to join pumps and pipes.

The pipe seals gradually become saturated with foul gas which then escapes into the air as fugitive emissions.

Nearly all the foul gas from a pulp mill (95%) comes from these fugitive emissions.

Sources of pulp mill foul gas © TAP after 3 tier 95% clean up and recovery boiler from open treatments drains and pipe & pump

The foul gas surrounds ALL KRAFT PULP MILLS (W. Raverty Pulp/paper expert), even the most modern ones. (See Sources of pulp mill foul gas).

Science has no solution to the problem of foul gases and none is likely within the foreseeable future. The gases begin to be detected after about twelve months of mill operation, and the offensive odour becomes worse as the pipe and pump seals inevitably degrade with age.

Government pulp mill guidelines do not require Gunns to shut down the mill when foul gas is detected.

All of the 163 Tamar Valley businesses that rely on the state? s clean brand and the jobs of 5700 Tasmanians directly employed in the tourism and related industries are at risk. Also at risk is the quality of life and health of every person living in the foul gas zone. (See 'Are you in the foul gas zone?' on page 2.)

'Get out' say Tumut residents

Gunns proposed 1.1 million tonnes/yr pulp mill is nearly twice the size of Visy's Tumut mill in NSW.



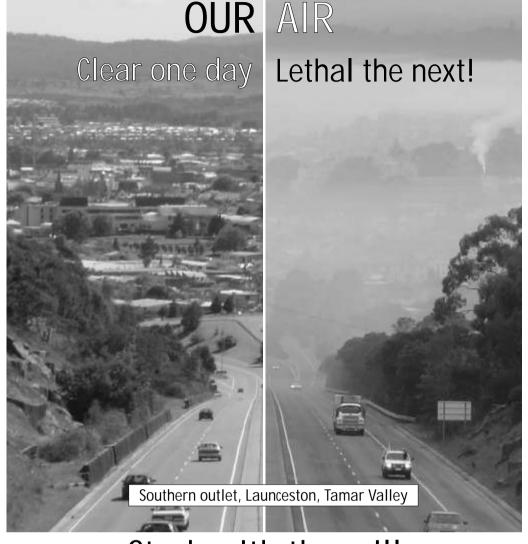
Local resident Pat Whatman said 'Visy agreed to buy out our neighbours if they chose to sell up. Many did. I can't leave the farm because it's been in my husband's

family for over a hundred years and he won't leave.

'Many of our friends won't visit us here because they can't breathe. My daughter was diagnosed with chronic lung disease four years ago.'

'I sometimes think about those poor people in Tasmania. They don't know what they're in for. My advice is pack up and go, cut your losses and go.

Sell your property and move elsewhere.'



Stuck with the mill \$270 m slashed from property values

'House and property values in the West Tamar from Rowella to Legana have been slashed \$270 million by the planned pulp mill,' said a source from the real estate industry.

One owner has been told by the Commonwealth Bank that her house is now worth \$100 000 less because of the mill.

Desperate owners are wanting to sell but the buyers are not interested, especially in homes closest to the mill. Legana (25k away from the mill site) has one and a half times the number sold in 08-09, while Rowella, just across the river from the planned mill, has six times the usual number.



Artificial fogs risk road disasters



The risks to travellers from 'industrial fog' produced by the proposed pulp mill in the Tamar Valley were never considered by Gunns, the RPDC, Sweco Pic, or by Labor's Fast Track Approval Process.

Events on 11 December 1990 in the Hiwassee River Valley, Tennessee, USA tell a chilling story.

On a near freezing morning, the Bowater paper mill in the valley emitted dense 'industrial fog' that drifted 5k onto the Interstate 75 freeway and caused a tragic multi-vehicle pile-up killing 12 people and injuring 56. Blinded in the dense white-out, drivers slammed on brakes causing multiple crashes. You can watch the documentary of the US tragedy on YouTube and judge for yourself. See www.tapvision.info for the YouTube links.

There are close parallels between the sites of the US tragedy and Tamar Valley. Both valleys are prone to fogs. At the fourth largest pulp mill in the world, Gunns' pulp dryer will belch up to 120 tonnes per hour of water vapour just above ground level into the fog-prone air.

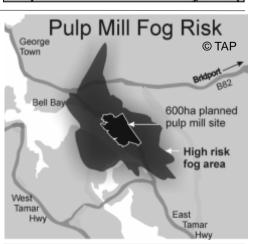
The photo of a Canadian pulp mill shows steam billowing not only from the main stack but also from ground level dryers; the cloud of steam is so dense, the light is completely blocked.

The East Tamar Highway carries school buses, commuters and tourists. It will also be used by log trucks every 1.1 minutes (Mercury 31-3-07) and other heavy

Although the risk from industrial fogs is not listed anywhere in Gunns' IIS, the areas affected could be similar to the anticipated spread of dust from the pulp mill (IIS;1206). The dark grey area enveloping the East Tamar Highway and the road to Bridport in the Pulp Mill Fog Risk map (right) shows the influence of hills and wind patterns around the mill site.

Most politicians seem uninterested in protecting the public. In March 2007, Dr Warwick Raverty addressed the Legislative Council about the fog risk. With the notable exception of four northern MLCs, this warning was dismissed. Labor MLC Doug Parkinson even 'accused me of being alarmist, 'said Dr Raverty.





Recent mill activity

- Treasurer Aird goes to Europe for Gunns meeting.
- Bartlett, Aird and Giddings fly to Canberra for pulp mill talks.
- State Government extends the permit deadlines by two years.
- Gunns approach Sodra with mill proposal. Gunns in private talks with Greens and
- Wilderness Society. Vegetation cleared at the pulp mill site and Trevallyn.

Editorial

Purpose of this publication

This newspaper details how the proposed pulp mill, the fourth-largest kraft pulp mill in the world, threatens your health, jobs, lifestyle and investments.

Its publication is made possible by thousands of small donations from the community.

Purpose of TAP Into A Better Tasmania (TAP)

Members of TAP want to protect the community's health, lifestyles and investments from the proposed pulp mill. TAP does not support any particular political party.

TAP also:

- supports a return to an independent scientific assessment of the pulp mill and all development proposals.
- is concerned by the on-going conversion of our food-producing land to tree plantations without proper assessment.
- supports the repeal of Section 11 of the Pulp Mill Assessment Act which takes away the public's right of appeal.
- is concerned by the failure of our political 'representatives' to represent our interests. The Labor party demands its members in Parliament swear an oath of allegiance to the party and its policy, even if they privately disagree with it. The faceless party machine, not voters, now controls our 'democracy'.

More information

For more information on these stories go to www.tapvision.info.

For cheeky stories and cutting commentary on Tasmanian issues, go to the leading online newspaper www.tasmaniantimes.com

Print layout by Zap Grafix

Tasmanians and turn over \$400m per year.

(Data from Tourism Research Australia 2007 and TTF Industry Update April 2009)

Community commentary

Selling my house in the pulp mill shadow

It was very stressful selling our 4-bedroom, cedar home. It was 6k from the pulp mill site and we went to 3 agents but they just shook their heads and they won't say anything about the mill.

The locals would not look at it. After 14 months there was only one offer from the Northern Territory at \$150,000 less. We took it out of desperation and they got a bargain. I don't think he knew what was going on with the mill or took a big gamble that it won't be built.

The mill has put a kybosh on house sales. The mill did us out of our money. There are lots of places for sale but I wouldn't be buying down the river, not for love nor money. It's an unmitigated disaster.

If the mill was dead and finally buried, the Tamar Valley would be a great place to invest. It's got huge potential and a great place to live for lifestyle, jobs and raising a family. There are lots of small businesses ready to go, but for the mill.

Dave, Launceston (name and address supplied)

Lessons from the Visy pulp and paper mill

Visy's mill near Tumut (NSW) is built in the wrong place in a valley with a considerable inversion layer. We were told that the odours would not go beyond the boundary of Visy's property (3000 acres) and that the emissions would "punch" right through the inversion layer. Bunkum!

The odours at times are horrendous for the near neighbours.

The odours come from all sections of the mill and travel considerable distances. Visy

has worked hard to get rid of the smell, but it still smells and now with the start-up of stage 2 the odours are appalling. It smells of rotten eggs, chemicals and washing that has been in the machine for days!!

Transport is also a huge concern. The hundreds of truck movements every day with logs and chemicals are taking a big toll on our roads.

I feel so desperately sorry for you. Gunns will stuff up the Tamar Valley and steal the dreams of so many.

Louise Halsey, Tumut (full address supplied)

Fog on the Tamar

Fog is common on my winter morning drive to work along the East Tamar Highway. On those mornings when visibility is almost nil, and headlights can barely be seen, joining the highway from the side road is Russian roulette.

And at the back of my mind now is the knowledge that these fogs will become so much worse if Gunns' proposed pulp mill is ever built.

Pulp and paper scientist, and former RPDC panellist, Warwick Raverty spoke at Launceston's Pilgrim Hall two years ago about the inevitability of increased whiteouts along the East Tamar Highway. For me, it remains a chilling consequence of building the mill.

If Gunns' mill is built children will risk their lives going to school – whether by car or by bus. Short of waiting for the wall of fog to lift, moving house is the only way to protect ourselves.

So what I'd like to know, given Tasmania's already alarming road toll, is why the government is prepared to support Gunns' pulp mill, whose enormous emissions of water vapour can only cause more deaths?

Anne (name and address supplied)

MIS damage

Over 13,000 ha of farmland have been destroyed by Managed Investment Scheme (MIS) forestry corporations. That's 65 farms @ 200ha per farm which were mostly family farms, many with irrigation or low cost irrigation potential, with better class of soils and higher rainfall than the midlands.

Plantation forestry is unsustainable. It destroys soil fertility, aerial spraying poisons our ratepayers, closes down businesses, destroys jobs, tourism, agricultural production and potential.

The most worrying aspect of all is that these MIS corporation absentee landowners (and that includes Gunns Ltd) are very likely to let that land fall into the ownership of a foreign country or multinational corporation.

It will be lost to future generations.

Forestry has deceived both State and Federal governments into supporting, at a huge and ongoing cost to taxpayers, the destructive and ongoing MIS scams. The MIS scams are a self-imposed national tragedy. MIS has been and continues to be a blight, a community killer, a cancer on all municipalities.

Bob Loone, Deputy Mayor Meander Valley

Air pollution may increase risk of infant lung infections.

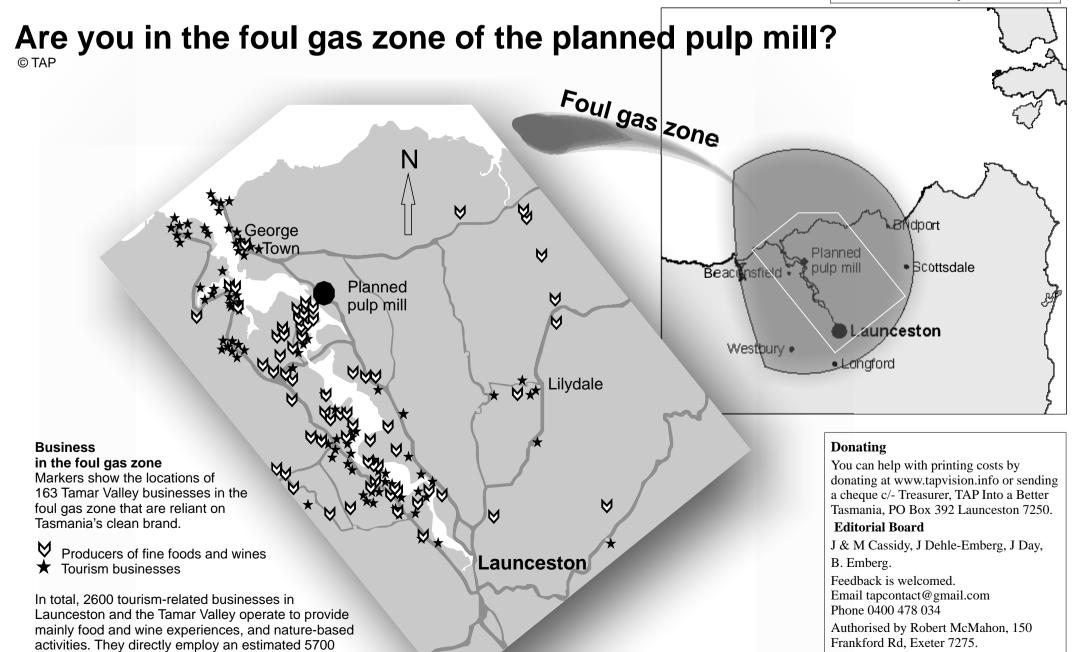
Living close to highways and other sources of air pollution is linked to higher rates of a lung infection called bronchiolitis, the number one reason for infant hospitalisations in North America. Reuters Health, 11 June 09.

Study links kids' lower IQ scores to prenatal pollution exposure.

Researchers for the first time have linked air pollution exposure before birth with lower IQ scores in childhood, bolstering evidence that smog may harm the developing brain.

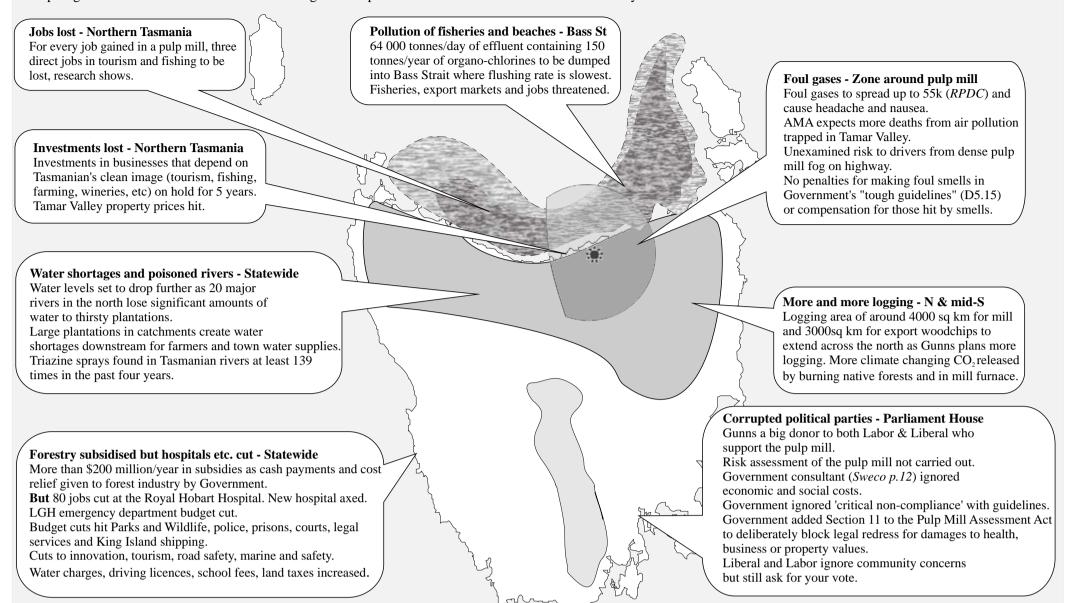
Associated Press, 19 Sept 2009.

Printed on Australian recycled paper.



A pulp mill that hits all Tasmanians hard ©TAP

Gunns' proposed pulp mill will affect all of Tasmania and threatens health, food production, fisheries, air and water quality, water supplies, tourism, property values and jobs. It has also corrupted governance of the State and diverted funding from hospitals and schools to subsidise Gunns and forestry.



Net loss of jobs

Fishing and tourism operators say that their industries will lose jobs if a pulp mill is built in the Tamar Valley. They cannot co-exist with a mill because of smell, pollution and heavy traffic, amongst other reasons.

The threat to fishing comes from the pollution going into the Tamar River and Bass Strait.

'Just one fish contaminated with dioxin going into the Japanese market will destroy a large part of Tasmania's market,' said scallop fisherman John Hammond (21/8/07).

The contamination danger is real. Gunns' proposed mill is similar to the new Botnia pulp mill in Fray Bento, Uruguay. On 27 February 2009 a serious industrial accident in the Botnia mill caused a gaseous explosion in piping and led to pollution of the river that divides Uruguay and Argentina.

Vineyards will also be severely affected. On May 31 2006, Sweden rejected 80,000 bottles of high quality organic Chilean wine produced near the new Celco pulp mill made with the latest Finnish technology.

Few Tasmanian pulp mill jobs

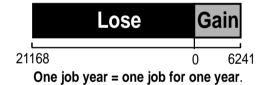
The number of jobs in civil, mechanical, piping, electrical and instrumentation will steadily increase to 1250 over the 30-month construction, but Gunns expects only 40% or 500 will be Tasmanian (*Integrated Impact Statement IIS*). The rest of the workforce will be from overseas and the mainland.

In addition, Gunns states that 234 or 80% of the 292 jobs to operate the pulp mill could be filled by Tasmanians (*IIS*). But trained operatives from overseas are more likely to be used, according to industry analyst Robert Eastment (*ABC Radio*, 20/3/08).

The number of jobs multiplied by the number of years lost in fishing and tourism (21168) is more than three times that (6241) gained in a pulp mill.

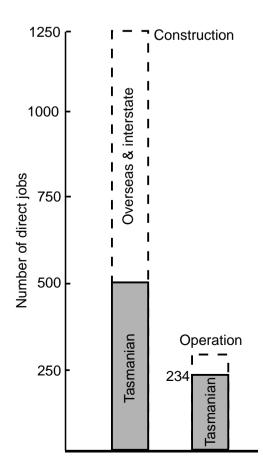
The number of indirect jobs will be affected the same way. More details at www.tapvision.info/node/612

Job years lost with a mill



The amount of work lost just in fishing and tourism would be three times more than would be gained from building and running a pulp mill.

Jobs will be lost in other sensitive industries such as fine foods and wines.



Number of direct Tasmanian jobs (shaded) and overseas and interstate jobs in construction and operation of the proposed pulp mill.

Pulp mill headlines (2006–09)

Newspaper headlines from the *Mercury*, *www.tasmaniantimes.com*, *Examiner* and *Australian*.

About the politicians

Lennon rejects calls for public hearings into Gunns deal. *Tue 20 Mar 07 ABC*

Lennon softens tough guidelines Sat 24 Mar 07 Mercury

Premier 'misleading' on mill benefits Sat 12 May 07 Australian

Gunns 'repeatedly offered' Premier favours Sat 23 Jun 07 Australian

Premier promotes pulp mill before approval *Tue 9 Jul 07 Australian*

Why a mill is good for us, by Paul Lennon Fri 6 Sep 07 Mercury

Wrong spot, says Lennon

Mon 10 Nov 08 Mercury

Gunns donated to Libs after mill approval Tue 1 Feb 09 Australian

Pulp mill approval doubt - Bartlett says just do it Tue 12 May 09 Examiner

Nothing between major parties says former Premier Wed 20 May 09 Examiner

Labor backs Gunns mill with handouts to follow *Thu 25 June 09 Australian*

About the community

Gunns project could spell health disaster: doctors *Thu 12 Apr 07 ABC*

More concerns raised over heavy traffic Fri 27 Jul 07 ABC

No doubt on pulp pong *Mon 30 Jul 07 The Mercury*

Tourism survey in fear of mill

Fri 3 Aug 07 Examiner

Fri 3 Aug 0/ Examiner

Pulp mill 'a threat to wine industry' Wed 5 Sep 07 Australian

Experts warn Gunns pulp mill may hurt Tas economy Sat 21 Sep 07 ABC

Mill subsidies: just the tip of the iceberg *Tue 27 Nov 07 www.tasmaniantimes.com*

Tamar Valley real estate tumbles Wed 4 Mar 08 Mercury

Legal rights removed by Labor-Liberal alliance

The Pulp Mill Assessment Act 2007 (PMAA) has provoked anger, particularly Section 11.

State Labor with support of the Liberals deliberately removed legal rights to protection from harm caused by Gunns' planned pulp mill. Now, the politicians want you to vote for them.

Section 11 prevents you seeking damages:

- if your health, or your children's health, is affected by emissions from the mill. Asthmatics and those with heart problems are more at risk;
- if your business enterprise eg. farming, fishing, tourism and service industry, loses money or is destroyed due to adverse impacts from the mill;
- if your property loses value due to its location near the pulp mill;
- if your farm is crossed by the pipeline and is damaged by, e.g., leakage or rupture, lost income, or weed and pest infestation from poor hygiene by construction and inspection crews.

Three Tamar Valley landowners unsuccessfully asked for reasons for the Government permits in the Supreme Court in July 2009. Justice Peter Evans' decision confirmed that Section 11 even removed the rights to obtain information from the government about provisions placed on the mill.

A search of common law by legal professionals (Bleyer Lawyers) could find no provisions as extreme as Section 11 anywhere else in Australia.

State is okay even if mill flops

Access Economics report: Treasurer Aird yesterday said the State's economy was not a one-trick pony.

Examiner, 23 July 2008.

Dismantling Tasmanian democracy

Clerk of the Senate Harry Evans said, 'If a party wins a majority in both houses, democracy is dead' (*ABC 13-11-09*). A minority government leads to more consensus-based decisions. Minority governments were in four of the six Australian states between 1989-95 and in more recent times in SA, ACT, Vic. and QLD.

The majority Labor Government in Tasmania is quietly undermining democracy and silencing the voice of the people.

Bob Loone, Deputy Mayor of the Meander Council, said, 'The Government is imposing a range of new systems and powerful authorities that avoid any need to consider natural justice, community input, and public consultation.'

In Tasmania, the following seven changes are reducing democracy to life support.

Water and sewerage ultimatum forced on councils to transfer community-owned assets to unaccountable expensive bureaucratic empires.

A new planning system that has more Ministerial executive power and less community say on development projects. A new Planning Committee can make secret decisions on virtually any planning matter regardless of public welfare.

Protection of Agricultural Land policy (PAL) that favours forestry plantations over farms, jobs, agricultural production and economic activity. PAL policy ensures unrestricted conversion of our good farmland from high value agricultural production to low value unsustainable pulp wood plantations. The State Government has prevented councils from protecting and promoting their community's economic and social welfare.

Three Regional Planning Schemes will replace council planning schemes. The people are powerless to influence the imposed laws that govern their lives.

Compulsory voting at council elections is a plan to promote party politics and control in councils

Stripping away council responsibilities and autonomy by the government weakens councils and makes amalgamations inevitable. Local communities will lose their power in local decision-making.

Planning Directive No.2 means that pipelines and other infrastructure including road upgrades and vegetation clearance do not require a planning permit. This means no objection or appeal can be made under the Resource Planning and Management System. There would be no advertisement. A development is deemed automatically approved. Greens Kim Booth said, 'When asked about this in Parliament Mr Llewellyn failed to deny that this directive may legally allow Gunns to send its bulldozers onto landowners' private property to facilitate the building of the pulp mill pipeline.'

Oxford Dictionary

 $\textbf{\textbf{Duplicity}}, n. \ double \ dealing, \ deceitfulness.$

FOR A BETTER TASMANIA

- Strong democracy and due process
- Genuine political representation and community involvement
- Support for small business and Tasmanian jobs
- Protection of State's unique qualities
- Fair and equal access to the law
- Taxes spent on health and education, not forestry subsidies
- Build healthy communities
- · Safe roads for all
- Clean air and water
- Sustainable healthy environment

Mill still not a done deal

Gunns is yet to:

- complete a pollution study of Bass Strait
- receive all federal permits
- be approved for finance
- gain full access for their water pipeline
- sign off with joint venture partners.

Despite years of looking, Gunns has failed to find a partner for its proposal. This is because a potential partner faces serious political, financial and project risks.

Political risks

- Legal challenge to the validity of the Pulp Mill Assessment Act.
- Majority of the population hostile.
- Possibility of reduced support from new minority Government, 2010.

Financial risk

Loss of taxpayer subsidies of around \$1 million per day to Gunns and forestry. (Gunns' annual profit 2009 is only \$56m)

Project risks

Gunns are pulp mill novices.

The RPDC assessed Gunns' proposal as "critically non-compliant" with pulp mill guidelines.

Many unexamined risks remain. Eg plantations growth may slow from more droughts and intense wildfires from climate change.

Gunns' competence to manage 'environmental, social and governance risks is below average.' (RiskMetrics, report Sep 09 www.riskmetrics.com)

Gunns' forest management fails to meet high standards of the Forest Stewardship Council

Hidden \$595 million annual costs of the pulp mill

What Tasmania would lose if the mill goes ahead

Loss	Est. annual cost	Reason
Food production	\$320 million	Conversion to trees
Tourism decline	\$110 million	Stench, log trucks
Fish sales	\$100 million	Market concerns
Water use	\$50 million	Water uptake by plantations
Health, deaths	\$15 million	Air pollution, traffic
Brand damage	Unknown	Loss of reputation

30 year cost: \$17.85 billion plus several billion dollars in property values!



Can you trust the government to protect you?

The Government gave the job of assessing the pulp mill to consultants Sweco Pic.

However, Sweco admitted (*Report p.12*) that they did not assess social and economic effects, nor the impacts of pipelines, quarries, noise and construction, nor the impacts on flora and fauna, waterways and transport.

Despite these failures, the Government made the Pulp Mill Assessment Act a law

Sweco's failure to do the job means that the pulp mill permits are invalid, according to detailed legal analysis by University law lecturer Michael Stokes. (www.tasmaniantimes.com)

After learning that the pulp mill law might be unlawful, Liberal leader Will Hodgman said we don't want a 'continued stream of internal navel-gazing' and Premier Bartlett responded by saying to Gunns, 'just do it.' (*Examiner 12/05/2009*).

Both Liberal and Labor expect the people to believe that the fourth largest chemical kraft pulp mill in the world will happily co-exist with fishing, tourism and nature-based activities, boutique wineries, organic food producers and farming.

But they have never been willing to examine both sides of the ledger; remember their 'benefits-only' studies?

In the real world, benefits <u>always</u> come with costs and risks.

Three rules given to aspiring politicians

Never listen Never explain Never admit error

Anon

Take control

10 things to do to protect your health, job, lifestyle and our democracy (thanks to filmmaker, Michael Moore):

- 1. **Find out.** Ask your doctor about the impact on your health. Ask your boss about the impact on your job. Ask a resident about the impact on property values.
- 2. **Spread the word.** Tell your friends. Show them this newspaper. Join TAP.
- 3. **Contact politicians.** Send short emails. Make brief phone calls. Send letters. Find your state representatives by calling 1300 135 513 or going to www.tas.gov.au. Find your federal representatives by calling (02) 6277 7111 or going to ww.aph.gov.au. Go to www.tapvision.info/node/10 for addresses. Do not abuse them. Ask them what they will do to protect you. Tell them you will vote for somebody else.
- 4. **Restore democracy.** Enrol in your local Labor, Liberal, Green or community organization. Take grass-roots action. Go to branch meetings. Organise your friends. Be forceful. Energise.
- 5. **Kick them out.** Recruit someone to stand. Consider standing yourself. Get behind thinking candidates. Other thinkers have succeeded.
- 6. **Protest.** Go to demonstrations. Hold vigils. Attend public meetings. Consider civil disobedience. Make noise. Have fun.
- 7. **Support non-mainstream media.** Shun corporate-controlled newspapers. Go to www.tasmaniantimes.com. Get the whole truth. Respond to articles. Inform others.
- 8. **Take care of yourself.** Be positive. Be energetic. Eat well. Exercise. Think.
- 9. **Be bold**. Be subversive. Protect your family. Defend your community.

10. VOTE...and make it COUNT!

Majority oppose mill

The overall result from all opinion polls published between 2005 and 2009 at local, state and national levels shows more than twice as many oppose Gunns' proposed pulp mill as support it.

Date	Polling Org	Support %	Oppose %	Unsure or no respsonse %
8- 8-09	Galaxy	14	74	12
15- 6-09	EMRS	26	65	9
7-11-08	EMRS	20	73	7
30-6-08	EMRS	19	75	6
			61	0
15- 6-08	Essential EMRS	39	45	26
20- 3-08	Geo.Town CEP	29 52		26
6 - 2-08			48	-
12-11-07	Roy Morgan	24	46	30
12-11-07	EMRS	37	54	9
30-10-07	Hobart CEP	23	77	-
4-10-07	SMH	17	83	-
3-10-07	Marketmetrics	38	51	11
12- 9-07	Galaxy	21	41	38
13- 9-07	Wentworth C'r	1	99	-
14- 9-07	ABC	17	83	-
8- 8- 07	EMRS	40	51	9
31- 8-07	Newspoll	35	53	12
9- 7- 07	WIN TV	25	75	-
24- 4-07	TasPoll	36	46	18
Oct 05	W. Tamar CEP	44	56	-

KEY to TABLE abbreviations

- CEP = Council Elector Poll
- C'r = Courier

Big profits from nature protection

Money invested in protecting nature can bring huge financial returns, according to a major investigation into the costs and benefits of the natural world.

BBC www.news.bbc.co.uk

Plantations mean pesticides

To encourage maximum growth of plantations, timber companies use pesticides and herbicides. But these inevitably drift into the air, water and soil to poison fish, birds and wildlife. And our food.

We are now born with persistent pesticides and other chemicals already in our bodies. They are passed from mother to child. Pesticides in the womb have been linked to birth defects and childhood brain cancer in the very young, and to Parkinson's disease in the old.



Triazines including atrazine have been banned in Europe and are no longer used by Forestry Tasmania, but they are still widely used in Tasmania on plantations and elsewhere despite growing public awareness about their link to serious health effects, especially breast and prostate cancer.

Triazines have been found 139 times in Tasmanian rivers over the past four years.

The scientists know these pesticides make us sick, so why is our government not acting?

Anne Layton-Bennett

USA Today, 30 Jun 09 www.whatsonmyfood.org/howmuch.jsp The Veterinarian, Oct 05, & Mar 08