

From: Moira Wellman
Sent: Thursday, 7 June 2007 11:33 AM
To: Records
Subject: Attn Frank Dixon - Pulp Mill submission

Dear Mr Dixon,

Overview:-

I am just about 'submitted out' on the subject of the Pulp Mill, so forgive me for keeping this very brief.

As a ratepayer, and resident of the area, I am very much against this polluting mill. I have read, researched, listened attentively to knowledgeable speakers, and made every attempt to stay informed. Throughout this, Gunns has treated thousands of us with contempt, and making patronising remarks, insinuating that we just do not understand the science behind the mill.

My major concerns are as follows:-

- As an asthmatic, the air pollution emitted from the smokestack into Launceston's already-polluted atmosphere, and the particular conditions we experience in the valley where this pollution becomes trapped under the inversion level.
- Log trucks. I live on the West Tamar, yet am already woken nightly at 2.30am by the noise of trucks on the **East Tamar**. This will increase if a pulp mill is built. Log truck road tax should also be quadrupled so that us taxpayers are not forking out for the very obvious damage that laden trucks cause.
- Road danger. We have witnessed an overladen log truck shed its load and it was a terrifying sight. Similar incidents happened many times in recent years. What provision have Gunns made to monitor unsafe loads?
- Water. The amount the mill would use is unsustainable. The piffling amount they would pay compared with other ratepayers. And the many millions of litres of **deadly dioxin** that the pristine waters of Bass Straight are meant to magically absorb (this is science????) which will affect our fisheries, wildlife and beaches.
- The decimation of our NE forests - we recently climbed Mt Victoria and the whole of the NE of our island had been practically shaved bare of native forest. A company **out of control**.

These are just a few of the many concerns I have about the proposed pulp mill.

The company's treatment of the independent RPDC process left me speechless, and our State Governments unconditional backing of Gunns even more so. I will be interested to see if our local council has more backbone.

Regards,
 Moira Wellman

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	✓	OD	Box	✓
RCV'D - 7 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted	Replied		
M. Reynolds				

7/06/2007

From: [\[redacted\]](#)
Sent: Saturday, 2 June 2007 11:55 AM
To: Records
Cc:
Subject: Proposed Pulp Mill

The Town Clerk/General Manager
Launceston City Council

council@launceston.tas.gov.au

I understand that Council has some concerns about the proposed pulp mill at Bells Bay and that these concerns may extend to the transport of materials to and from the Pulp Mill if it proceeds.

Please find attached a submission sent this day to Gunns Ltd in response to the invitation to comment under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

It is noted that "The pulp mill will incorporate best available technology and set new world standards for pulp mill design." It is trusted that this will apply to the transport of each of construction materials, timber for processing and pulp mill products. Transport arrangements that include undue reliance on road transport will increase environmental and social impacts as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

Assoc Prof Philip Laird PhD, Comp IE Aust, MCIT

2 June 2007

COUNCIL POSITION

Launceston City Council submits that if the concerns as outlined in this submission can not be resolved, that the pulp mill should not be approved.

Further, if approval is granted, all baseline data controls must be measured, validated and published before the development can commence.

Whilst Launceston City Council supports the pulp mill in general, it is our responsibility to ensure and be satisfied that our concerns – and those of our ratepayers, as raised in this submission will be thoroughly investigated and adequately addressed.

The significant issues for Council are: transport; water supply and water loss; air quality; health and other environmental issues; and the establishment of a totally independent monitoring regime.

Council looks forward to responses to its concerns.

Yours sincerely

Frank Dixon
GENERAL MANAGER

FILE No.	SF4088				
EO	✓	OD		Box	✓
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC					
Doc No.					
Action Officer	M. JENNINGS		Noted	Replied	

12/6/07
3.15pm

Dear Frank
In haste! (I've just returned from 3 weeks out in Q'land)
Please regard this note as my formal submission to the Public Meeting 20/6/07 @ 7.30pm requesting L.C.C. to actively oppose the proposed Pulp Mill. Briefly:
I endorse the above Council Position & in doing so point out that since the L.P.D.C. is no longer the body assessing the proposal that Council have no alternative but to oppose it as the will of our elected representatives - as set out in this 18 page submission - cannot, & will not, be properly addressed.
Sincerely
Ken Partridge

FILE No.	524088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	Box	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LC				
Doc No.				
	Action Officer	Noted	Replied	
	M. Newlands			

General Manager, Mr Frank Dixon
 Launceston City Council
 Launceston Tas 7250

Copies distributed to ALD, GM, THANKINS + Mayo

To The Mayor & Councillors, RE:- Public Meeting Opposing Pulp Mill

As elected representatives of the people in the Launceston Municipality, I believe you have a moral, if not a legal obligation to protect, and where possible enhance the living conditions affecting the health and welfare of your constituents without fear or favour.

If the proposed pulp mill at Bell Bay were to go ahead, it could seriously compromise our health in the form of poisons being given off into the air which is already struggling with the known inversion layer that settles over Launceston.

Remember, that according to the Emission Limit Guidelines the government is currently touting as 'the world's toughest', during the commissioning phase which is 18 months, THERE ARE NO ENFORCEABLE LIMITS FOR DEADLY POISONS LIKE DIOXIN, only 'targets' which Gunns is asked to meet if they can.

It also appears that the process to be used is not used in a pulp mill anywhere else in the world, and actual dioxin emissions from such a process are unknown.

As ratepayers, we have already paid to have woodburning heater emissions monitored, and wood heaters removed/replaced. Adding forest burnoffs to this, why would we want to risk a far greater likelihood of air pollution in a valley known for its air inversion problem?

The expected increase number of log truck movements will not only damage our roads further, but create an even greater danger to domestic and other traffic than is already the case. Why should ratepayers have to carry the considerable burden of cost to maintain the roads that get ripped apart, principally by log trucks? Added to this, domestic users are constantly being harassed by log trucks trying to meet the time schedule demanded by Gunns.

I would like all councillors to declare if they or their families have shares in Gunns and/or own tree-farms suppling wood to Gunns. If so, there is surely a conflict of interest now, and also when voting took place for the Council to give its support for the pulp mill.

I would also like the Council to employ a full-time environmental officer whose sole job is to inspect and monitor all projects put to the Council for approval, and make a full and comprehensive report that will also be available to the public when requested.

In the case of an emergency, has the Council formed an evacuation plan? You may think this is scare-mongering but many would say it is facing reality. You may well groan at having to spend \$5000 to call this meeting. You could have avoided this if had listened and acted earlier on the feeling and concerns of a large number of people in your municipality. It will cost you more if the proposed pulp mill goes ahead.

I THEREFORE IMPORE YOU TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO REVERSING YOUR PRESENT STANCE, AND THUS OPPOSING THE PROPOSED PULP MILL

(signed) *Fairlie Ferguson* (FAIRLIE FERGUSON)
 12.6.07

Launceston City Council,

Submission on Longreach Pulp Mill

One of the most important functions a local government has is the management and maintenance of water supply to its consumers, its parks and recreational facilities and its security into the future.

When Gunns Ltd. announced that their water requirement from Trevallyn Dam would be double that of the total water allocation given to Esk Water. I thought that the Council would have been sufficiently concerned about the impact it might have on their water resource when we are facing a rapidly changing climate to check out Gunns figures. It appears that they did not as their submission to the RPDC was made on the basis of figures given in the Gunns pulp mill IIS.

Had they done an appraisal of the figures and checked out with Hydro Tasmania, the organisation in control of the water and with whom Gunns were negotiating a supply contract, it would have been revealed that Gunns were seeking a supply of up to 40 gegalitres per year not the 26 gegalitres in their IIS

Had they bothered to obtain actual daily inflows into the Trevally Dam that would have shown quite clearly that there is a vast difference between flows in dry periods and flows in wet periods. and it is irrelevant to talk about a percentage of the average flow into Trevallyn Dam as Gunns do. The Council should have directed their attention to difficult and dry times into the future when there is going to be low flows and high demand from an increasing number of interested parties for that resource.

During dry periods in the past flows into the Trevally Dam have fallen below ½ a gegalitre per day in spite of the Great Lake reserves being drawn down in recent years to critically low levels.

A study into the impact of tree plantations on ground water tables and forestry activity in catchment areas on water quality has yet to be completed.

This last summer has seen issues of water quality in the Trevallyn Dam and Cataract Gorge. There is obviously a problem, and questions on the security and quality of water for all those seeking a share of the water resource have not been answered and you are obliged not to support the pulp mill as you pledged in your submission to the RPDC.

Alan Matfin.



FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	/	OD		Box
RCVD 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted	Replied		
M. Matfin				

Copies distributed to
Ald, Mayor, Gm & T. HARRING

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted		Replied	
M. REVIEWS				

Launceston City Council,
Launceston.

Dear Councillors,

SUBMISSION REGARDING COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PULP MILL

It is of great concern to me and my medical colleagues that the City Council has chosen to support the proposed pulp mill without a thorough assessment of the risks. This is despite the Council's earlier assertion that their approval was dependant upon a satisfactory RPDC assessment. The people of Launceston have been denied this assessment, yet the Council has supported the mill proposal without adequate assessment. This is unacceptable to me and it would appear most residents. There seems to have been little consideration for the harmful effects that the mill is likely to bring upon the residents of Launceston and surrounding areas.

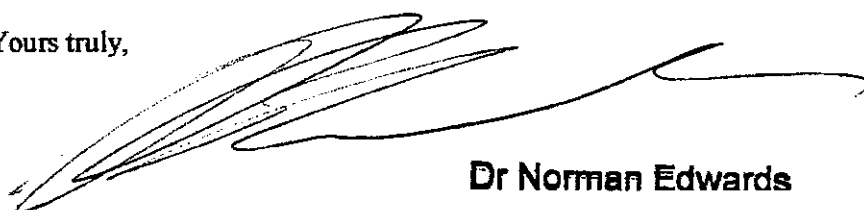
A pulp mill will increase the establishment of forest plantations. Conversion to plantation forestry harms water quality by adding to sediment and chemicals. Many of the chemicals are considered a serious risk to people's health and to the environment. Burning after clear felling pollutes the air with smoke particles, and released toxic chemicals. Launceston already suffer the reputation and the health consequences of having the most polluted air of any city in Australia. To support a project that would add to this would be a gross insult to the residents of Launceston.

The expected airborne and Bass Strait discharges that would flow from the mill have not been properly and independently assessed, nor have there been detailed pre-mill chemical and ecological assessments. Normally adequate assessment would require 3 – 5 years of monitoring. For the Council to support the proposed mill without these assessments would amount to negligence.

Security of the areas water supply is a concern. Annual rain fall is in decline. Plantations are enormous consumers of water, and the proposed mill would consume a vast quantity of the resource. Can the Council guarantee that there will not be rationing of residents water supply as a result? Or will residents have to foot the bill for infrastructure to maintain domestic supply?

It is a worry that the Council may express one view to the public and then act against its own statements. I respectfully request that this Council insists on a proper and thorough independent assessment of the full economic and health risks on behalf of the residents of Launceston. To support the proposal without doing so would indicate a dereliction of duty, and as a resident I feel misled by earlier assurances. I look forward to hearing that this Council has revised its present support for the mill, and demands justice for the residents of Launceston.

Yours truly,



Dr Norman Edwards

*Copies distributed to ALD, Mayor
F. M. HAWKINS.*

Mr. Frank Dixon
General Manager
Launceston City Council
P.O.Box 396
Launceston 7250

FILE No.	574088		
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC			
Doc No.			
Action Officer	Noted	Replied	
M. KENNEDY			

Dear Sir,

Re: Public Meeting in Response to Petition, to be held on June 20th 2007
Re: The Proposed Pulp Mill in the Tamar Valley

This lovely region has been here long before we humans arrived, and it is our responsibility to live here in such a manner as to maintain its health and ongoing viability into the future..

Our lifestyle, jobs, livelihood are based on winegrowing, fisheries, farming and tourism, which in turn depend on our "clean green" image.

This area supports over 100,000 people. The survival of the human species, here as everywhere, depends, as absolute basics, on an adequate supply of clean unpolluted water, unpolluted and fresh-smelling air, and healthy food. These, in turn, contribute to a healthy planet. We cannot eat, drink or breathe money. The few jobs, and the profits generated by the proposed pulp mill cannot compare to the job, financial and lifestyle losses which it would cause.

The world has at last realised that our very survival as a species on this planet is threatened, and worldwide efforts are beginning to be made, to try and ensure our supply of safe water, breathable air and fresh food. It is realised that we need our forests as rain catchment and water purification as well as air purification systems..

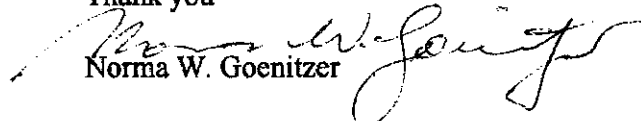
We have learned, that it is the balance of the whole of the natural world which provides our basic needs, and that what happens in one area is not localised, but has far-reaching effects. So much of this planet has been degraded or destroyed already, it is vital to protect what remains. At present we still have the chance to protect this area. Once the damage is done, there will be no going back.

Should this Pulp Mill be built, causing the dire results predicted by all experts, people and businesses will leave this region, young people will leave to find work elsewhere, new people will not be attracted to the area,. This will result in the gradual death of the whole region, and added to all other losses, severely depress real estate values.

We call ourselves "homo sapiens", it is time we acted accordingly..

Thank you

Norma W. Goenitzer



From:**Sent:** Monday, 11 June 2007 12:34 PM**To:** Records**Subject:** SUBMISSION REGARDING PUBLIC MEETING, 12TH JUNE**Launceston Municipal Ratepayers' and Residents' Association Inc.**PO Box 2039,
NEWNHAM TAS 7248Mr. Frank Dixon,
General Manager,
Launceston City Council,
Council Chambers,
St. John Street,
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

11th June, 2007

Dear Mr. Dixon,

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted		Replied	
M. Kershaw				

**SUBMISSION REGARDING PUBLIC MEETING
THE ALBERT HALL, LAUNCESTON
WEDNESDAY, 12th JUNE**

The Launceston Municipal Ratepayers' & Residents' Association Inc. unequivocally supports the Launceston City Council's submission to the RPDC of 25th September 2006 and, in particular, on page 3, that; "the RPDC places a condition on the permit for the proposed pulp mill to ensure adequate levels of rail utilisation in order that road traffic movements are not increased as a result of the pulp mill".

If this does not happen, Launceston Council and its ratepayers will be further disadvantaged by the additional costs of maintaining roads that will be subject to extra log-truck traffic generated if the proposed pulp mill goes ahead. Research indicates that the wear effect on roads from one fully-loaded log-truck is equivalent to 160,000 family cars. The anticipated extra 164 log-trucks per day in Wellington Street (*Expert witness, Keith Midson, January, 2007, page 25, Table 4*) alone is equivalent to 26 million family cars.

Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented and undemocratic action by the State Government in bypassing the RPDC's review process, the Launceston City Council's well-reasoned and presented submission will, in effect, be committed to the wastepaper basket.

Yours faithfully,

*John Kershaw*For and on behalf of the Launceston Municipal Ratepayers' and Residents' Association Inc.
Senior Vice-President

12/06/2007

From: John and Caroline Ball
Sent: Monday, 11 June 2007 2:59 PM
To: Records
Subject: pulpmillmtg

For attention Mr Frank Dixon, General Manager.

Dear Mr Dixon

I would like to reserve the right, please, to address the public meeting arranged by the L.C.C. for 20th June concerning the proposed pulpmill at Longreach.
As a retired doctor I wish to raise the important issue of the serious risk to the health of our citizens should this mill ever be built.

Sincerely

John J. Ball(Dr)

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	Box	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted		Replied	
M. Reynolds				

12/06/2007

From: Estelle
Sent: Monday, 11 June 2007 5:12 PM
To: Records
Subject: Submission re Gunns Pulp Mill

Hi,
Please find attached my submission re Gunns Pulp Mill

Estelle Ross

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer		Noted	Replied	
M. REYNOLDS				

12/06/2007

**MY SUBMISSION TO THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF
LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL RE GUNNS PROPOSED PULP MILL**

As Launceston City Councillors it is your responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all your ratepayers. A proposal as enormous as the Gunns Pulp Mill is a subject which must have the most rigorous safeguards. If the majority of your ratepayers oppose the mill, which a local poll indicates that they do, then you are bound to respect their wishes whatever your own personal views may be.

It was appalling that Gunns pulled out of the RPDC as they did. It was obvious to most Tasmanians that the real reason had nothing whatever to do with the time frame but all to do with their not being able to comply with the strict and necessary guidelines laid down by the RPDC.

Gunns and the Lennon Government have behaved completely unethically and why the Pulp Mill Assessment Bill 2007 was passed by the Upper House beggars belief. Ivan Dean, in your role as an MLC how you could possibly countenance such an undemocratic piece of legislation? No rights of appeal now exist and even if someone involved were convicted of fraud etc the mill can still go ahead It's an absolute disgrace.

So now we are left with the entirely unsatisfactory fast-track review by Sweco Pic on the one hand and Malcolm Turnbull and the Federal Government on the other. It is therefore vital that you as the Council constantly lobby the MLC's in particular and the government as a whole to make sure that our interests are served.

- We refuse to accept extra log trucks on our already congested and badly maintained roads
- We refuse to have an enormous log fired power station belching out the equivalent emissions of 11,000 domestic log heaters. We all know that the Tamar Valley is subject to temperature inversion and that council and locals have over the past few years finally cleaned the air somewhat, by removing many of these domestic heaters. What safeguards are there for those with respiratory complaints?
- We refuse to put up with the smell. There is no such thing as a pulp mill which does not smell. A letter to the Examiner dated 5th May from a Finn, Pertti Tallgrem, who has come to live in Tasmania, lived near pulp mills back in Finland and confirms all our worst fears about them.
- We refuse to have millions of gallons of effluent gushing out daily into an area of Bass Strait known to support a significant range of species that are protected under State of Commonwealth Legislation. Tidal flows in this area of Bass Strait are very sluggish. They are estimated to take 160 days to flush through the area. This means that the build up of

effluent in the area will be huge and will have devastating effects on marine flora and fauna. Many of the latter rely on sight to catch their prey. The water will be turbid, totally discoloured and this will severely handicap their search for food. This in turn will affect the livelihood of local fishermen

- We refuse to have a chemical plant producing Sodium Chlorate. This is not Accepted Modern Technology, producing as it does excessive amounts of dioxins and furans which are in contravention of the Stockholm Convention.
- Why should Gunns be allowed to take not only the 26 million litres often touted but up to 40,000 litres of water from Lake Trevallyn at the pittance of \$24 per megalitre when I, at West Tamar have to pay \$640 per megalitre? What happens in another drought? Do we do without while they take our water?
- What happens to all the clean green small businesses in the Tamar Valley if this mill is approved? Fishing, vineyards, horticultural and tourism industries will all suffer the consequences. The faintest hint of pollution and our reputation will be irretrievably damaged.

In conclusion it is up to you as Aldermen of this city to liaise with both George Town and West Tamar Councils as a united group and constantly lobby the government to make sure the welfare of everyone in the Tamar Valley is addressed. You can be sure that heads will roll in the upcoming local council elections if our wishes are not granted.

From Estelle Ross
11th June 2007

From: Mike Noble
Sent: Monday, 11 June 2007 7:51 PM
To: Records
Subject: Submission for the LCC ratepayer-initiated pulp mill meeting

Michael and Sancia Noble

11 June 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

FILE No.	564088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted		Replied	
M. Lennon				

Re: Meeting to request the LCC to actively oppose the proposed pulp mill

As owners of two properties within the Launceston City Council area, we call on the Launceston City Council to actively oppose this fast-track pulp mill proposal.

We recall that whilst the proposed Gunns Ltd pulp mill was being assessed within Tasmania's Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC), Launceston City Councillors largely supported the proposal as long as it was a environmentally considerate.

Gunns Ltd's ditching of the RPDC assessment was sold to the people as a problem of timing. However, many of us involved in the process from the beginning recall that reports provided by Gunns Ltd were both late and considered inadequate. At the time that Gunns removed itself from the RPDC process there were strong signals that the proposed mill in the Tamar Valley was not going to stack up environmentally within this process.

Certain politicians (such as Mayor Ivan Dean in his Legislative Council role) passing fast-track legislation for the pulp mill were not good to their word. This was that either the proposal must be approved by the RPDC and/or that strict environmental considerations would need to be incorporated in order for them to support the proposal. We do not trust the "approval" legislation created by Premier Lennon to pass the Gunns pulp mill. Our lifestyle and environment in Launceston are at serious risk.

As ratepayers with significant investments in the Launceston City Council area, we are deeply concerned about the impacts of the fast-tracked pulp mill (including on our air quality/health, the desirability of our city as a place to live and invest, our city's tourism industry, and our clean green seafood industry). We ask ourselves "do we want our newborn daughter growing up in a Launceston that shares a fast-tracked pulp mill's airshed"? Especially when the Australian Medical Association have indicated that deaths will occur as a consequence of the added air pollution from this proposal. As our political representatives, we call on Launceston City Councillors to actively oppose this fast-tracked pulp mill.

As a final note, we would like to express our disappointment at LCC General Manager Frank Dixon's comments that the ratepayer-initiated meeting was not dealing with a council issue and that it was consequence of some kind of legislative loophole that needs fixing. Coming from an unelected official these comments were disrespectful of the rights of ratepayers in a democratic system. Most concerning though was that these comments were a sad reflection on how little Council has

12/06/2007

considered the potential negative ramifications of this mill for Launceston as a place for people to live in health and invest in confidence.

Yours sincerely,

Michael and Sancia Noble

How would you spend \$50,000 to create a more sustainable environment in Australia? Go to Yahoo!
7 Answers and share your idea.

12/06/2007

Submission to The Launceston Council
David Maddern BSc(Hons),

The Mayor and General Manager have mistakenly labeled the petition that ultimately generated this meeting as political. Unless this is a political statement in itself, as those utterances would have had that effect, they are in error.

The RPDC was investigating the Pulp Mill proposal, and even with the restrictive terms of reference it was saddled with, was able to look at the human effects on the population in the Tamar Valley. They were generating guidelines over two years that would see extra monitoring stations, and one would hope, the solely missing baseline studies so needed. However, as we all know, Gunns Ltd. pulled out while somehow keeping the project alive, removing this project from State Significance and abandoning PRDC work.

The Federal Government have always had an interest in this, but streamlining joint legislation under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBCA) meant that its powers were ceded to the RPDC study.

The Abandonment of the RPDC process therefore forced the Federal Government to initiate its own study, but the framers of the Legislation never intended it to look after Human health.

At the same time the State Government is in a headlong drive to get this Mill built, and in an all or nothing mood it framed the most spectacular legislation, Kamikaze some say, to get *the process* approved.

This leaves the population not only without any official investigation into the health effects, but worryingly we find will be un-compensatable should they arise.

There is no need for me to detail these risks. The eminent body, the Australian Medical Association, made up of professionals who look after human ill-health, conducted a study over 6 criteria, and at length marked each one adversely.

But as already explained there is no official investigation of the Doctor's worries, or any of the other problems identified.

So it has come back to our looking to the primary land planning body, our Local Council. Here lies the *only official tools* to put a stop to the madness of putting one of the most polluting industries using an *experimental process*, and spewing out one of the most powerful and insidious poisons in the biological world in the vicinity of a regional city.

And it gets worse by the day.

They lump H₂S as a nuisance gas, but we know it kills below 800ppm and is recognisable at .0047ppm, and collects in low places.

Now we know that Toxikos Ltd, that I can only call a marginally Scientific company by some of the blanket statements in its report, only modeled the first release of

dioxin into the environment, while failing to add in background levels and the accumulation in the sediment that is known about in International experience with these poisons.

Add to that the revelation that the 3.3 pg figure touted as the figure for dioxin release was arrived at not by calculation, but by dividing the levels of Swedish and American mills of the early 1990's by 10!

I can give no better status to that figure than the down to earth Army epithet "an anal pluck".

We deserve much better than that and I urge the Council to investigate road limits to force log trucks to only load to their design heights, to cease using exhaust brakes entering Launceston, both of which have eminently reasonable justification.

I urge Council to identify every conceivable way to foil this mill, if the Federal Government does not terminate it.

David W. [Signature]

FILE No.	SF 4088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted		Replied	
M. LEMING				

Copies - Aid, Gm, T. HAWKINS T
MAYOR.

In submission for the impending City of Launceston Public Meeting.

We petition the Council to speak at the Hearing

8 June 2007

**From: DH Emberg
JD Emberg**

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCV'D - 8 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer			Noted	Replied
M. REYNOLDS				

The submission is as follows:

GROWING DANGER FROM INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE

We own a small farm on the edge of Launceston, Tasmania. We have lived in the general area for thirty years. We know Northern Tasmania as well as anyone. Our abode is 620 Lilydale Rd., ten kilometres from the city centre.

We have watched the local roads deteriorate each year with some upgrading but certainly the repair and construction curve is down. Now, with the increased logging truck traffic, getting on to the local road to Launceston can be dangerous. Twice we had to pull over on the shoulder as a log truck pulled up hard behind us. Once we were forced into the ditch.

Ten times and more we have turned in log truck drivers to the police for speeding on a down hill segment in front of our house. It is generally known that loaded trucks frequently speed to 110 kms per hour. To our knowledge nothing has ever been done about the reports. At least we have never been given any information as to the results. This is not a complaint about the police...their job is difficult enough.

It is not unusual to find three and even five loaded logging trucks within a short distance of each other. Up to twenty autos are forced to slow down behind them, thus making the 'wolf pack syndrome' of dangerous traffic jams.

The lack of passing lanes up Finger Post Hill and other hills in the area are impacting upon all who live between Scottsdale and Launceston. Thus the danger to us residents has become endemic and grows monthly. If a mill is to be built, most traffic from the general north east will be funnelled to our road. We are extremely worried.

We are fearful and know the value of our property, which is considerable, will be seriously diminished.

It is our considered opinion that the impending pulp mill will be a disastrous mistake if it proceeds.

We ask that these problems of infrastructure as stated above be given more examination and not only examination...but they be honestly and openly dealt with.

Regards,
DH "Buck" Emborg

DH Emborg
Joan D Emborg
cc: Gunns PTL

The Councillors,
Launceston City Council,
Launceston
Tasmania 7250

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	✓	OD	Box	✓
RCV'D		12 JUN 2007		LCC
Doc No.				
Author		Replied		
LIDEAN				

Copies Sent To Aids, CM2/26/07
T. HARKINS

8th June 2007

Dear Councillors,

It is of great concern that the Launceston City Council would appear to have little considered the effects of current and proposed forestry practice on Launceston's water catchments. The proposed pulp mill would leave a legacy affecting Launceston's water catchments which would no doubt be regretted by Launceston's residents for years to come.

Already there has been substantial degradation of the water catchments with the conversion of native forest to plantation forestry. Clear felling close to water courses, frequently on steep terrain has led to marked erosion and soil loss. Some hillside may well not recover for many decades or longer. The addition of excessive soil particulates to the water damages the delicate river system.

Pollution of waterways is added to by the extensive use of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides, including Simazine and Atrazine. Many of these chemicals considered a serious risk to human health, and yet they are used close to water courses and often delivered by aerial spraying. This must surely be considered as much a threat to the health of Launceston residents as the discharge of dioxins into the fishing grounds of the Bass Strait. Acceptance and indeed promotion of these activities through the support for further plantation forestry in Launceston's catchments to supply the proposed pulp mill could be considered reckless. By supporting the proposed pulp mill, The Council must be regarded as being partially culpable and therefore liable for such damage that may occur in the catchments as a result.

Plantation forestry, rather than supporting water delivery, significantly threatens Launceston's water security, and may result in a need for substantial spending on infrastructure, no doubt at rate payers expense. It is surprising that an additional project like the pulp mill which would be an extremely heavy consumer of water should be supported by Council. Already there is much concern about future droughts and reduced water flows. Plantations also are huge consumers of water. They are also much less effective at controlling run off after rain than native forests. The increased risk of rapid run off and flood conditions, carries with it significant costs. Soil pollution of rivers greatly degrades river systems.

Launceston residents might ask why they should be denied a reliable safe unpolluted water supply. It is likely that Tasmania's annual rainfall will continue to decline as the planet heats up. The changes to rainfall are expected to occur during the lifetime of the mill. If and when there are water shortages for residents in the future, Launceston resident will be asking why such a water hungry project was supported by council. Which individuals were responsible, and did they act responsibly?

There are other concerns with the plantation forestry that would occur to support the pulp mill. The burning of the vast quantities of biomass left after clear felling contributes particulate and chemical air pollution, both of which also is a threat to health. Launceston residents already are frequently exposed to excessive air pollution, and carry the health consequences.

Burning of biomass also raises CO2 emissions. At a time when most people are now waking up to the need to cut emissions because of the effects on climate change, it seems incredible that the council may through their support of the pulp mill also promote increasing CO2 admissions, in addition to the particulate and chemical emissions. It would be shameful to think that the Council was promoting further increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

The damage to Launceston's water catchments caused by clear felling and plantation forestry practices is already substantial, particularly in the higher catchments areas of the North East. The damage will be greatly accelerated by the ongoing extension of conversion of forest and farmland to plantation forestry to supply the proposed pulp mill.

It is probable that this is not well understood by council members. Viewing of pulp mills outside Tasmania will add little understanding to the enormous degradation of the water catchments which are already occurring locally and will be greatly accelerated by the building and supply of the proposed local pulp mill.

I ask that the council members all take the opportunity to see for themselves the legacy they are presently promoting to be endured by future Launceston residents and the wider community. To understand the true nature of this crisis, I request that the councilors take a guided flight over the water catchments with and expert hydrologist (not one with any pecuniary interest in the proposed mill), so they can see the damage already done and the further damage that will come should the pulp mill be approved.

Professor Tyrone Hayes from Berkley University California is a most respected integrative biologist. He is a true expert on the hormonal disruption by chemical pollutants, and in particular the tiazines (Atrazine and Simazine). He is able to provide expert advice on the harmful consequences to human health and other ecological consequences of the highly chemical dependant plantation forestry conversion. He will be assessing Launceston's water catchments himself and will be flying over the area.

Professor Hayes will be giving a talk on the issue in Launceston on 23rd June. At the very least we would hope, and expect, that the council members will do what they can to learn from his knowledge and experience, and attend his talk. We hope that the council members will also take the time to speak with him to clarify and understand the concerns regarding clear felling and plantation forestry on water catchments.

In the strongest terms, I encourage the members of the Launceston City Council to review their support for the proposed pulp mill, and make the effort to learn more about the consequences the mill would have on Launceston's water catchments and Launceston's residents for the long term. I seriously question whether Launceston's residents would be grateful for the legacy Council presently supports.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Richard Pearson

From: Workfit Tas
Sent: Tuesday, 12 June 2007 12:52 PM
To: Records
Subject: Submission for council Pulp Mill Public Meeting

Dear Mr Frank Dixon

Re: Submission for Council Pulp Mill Public Meeting

Please find attached a summary of my comments regarding health and odour. To do justice to a complex set of information, I would appreciate a 5 minute presentation time and use of a laptop and projector for powerpoint overheads.

Regards
Dr Andreas Ernst
Ph: 0800 000 000

FILE No.	SF4088			
EO	✓	OD	Box	✓
RCV'D 12 JUN 2007 LCC				
Doc No.				
Action Officer	Noted		Replied	
M. KEMNOLIS				

12/06/2007

Submission by Dr Andreas Ernst

Council Pulp Mill Public Meeting, 20th June 2007

- Emissions from pulp mills are a health hazard. Adverse effects include angina, heart attacks, respiratory illness, premature births and many others.
- The IIS does not validly predict air pollution. The IIS prediction for class 1 pollutants largely fail US EPA air modeling standards. The IIS under predicts particle pollution for Launceston by 500%.
- Odour is not just a nuisance. It has been linked to adverse health effects, eg asthma aggravation, nausea, hay fever, acute respiratory infections.
- Contrary to common suggestions, modern pulp mills have odour events.
- The proposed pulp mill location is by nature of topography, meteorology, inversion weather and large population in the Tamar Valley associated with significant risk.
- The current population in Launceston is already breathing in polluted air, particularly in winter. This has been associated with 8-17 additional deaths per year from air pollution.
- Any additional air pollution and increase in the number of deaths is unacceptable to many including AMA Tasmania.
- Although deficient and of poor validity, the IIS predicts between 1 to 30% relative contribution from the pulp mill to the total atmospheric pollution in Launceston. This will be associated with an increase in mortality. The IIS is deficient in quantifying this increase.
- The fast tracking of the assessment process by legislation has been interpreted by many as a shortcut and compromise to the RPDC process, which was seen as independent, thorough and trustworthy.



CONSTRUCTION
FORESTRY
MINING
ENERGY
UNION

FORESTRY &
FURNISHING
PRODUCTS
DIVISION

**Pulp & Paper
Workers' Branch**
148 - 152 Miller Street
WEST MELBOURNE
VICTORIA 3003

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SUB-BRANCHES

- ☐ Maryvale
- ☐ Melbourne
- ☐ Millicent
- ☐ Nowra
- ☐ Petrie
- ☐ Sydney
- ☐ Tumut
- ☐ Tasmania

30th May 2007

Mr F. Dixon
General Manager
Launceston City Council

(by electronic submission)

Dear Sir

Public Meeting – Proposed Pulp Mill

Please find attached the submission of the Federal Office of the Pulp & Paper Workers' Branch of the Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union.

The Pulp & Paper Workers' Branch will attend the meeting in the Albert Hall on 20th June 2007 and it would be our intention to speak at the meeting, within the guidelines set by Council.

Should further information or clarifications be required, I may be contacted as indicated herein.

Yours sincerely

Tim Woods
SECRETARY

The Social Dimension

Employment Opportunities, Community Development and Social Infrastructure

**Submission of the Pulp & Paper Workers' Branch of the Construction,
Forestry, Mining & Energy Union to the Launceston City Council**

Executive Summary

This submission by the CFMEU Pulp & Paper Workers' Branch to the LCC focuses directly on two specific issues:

1. employment opportunities (both direct and indirect) associated with the proposed mill;
2. community and social impact of the proposed mill, including some further business development opportunities.

The submission makes some comments about Best Available Technology and Best Practice Environmental Management, focussing on the role of occupational health and safety as a key and leading indicator of ongoing sustainability.

However, the submission makes several suggestions and recommendations, including the closer examination of some options to reduce the social and community impact that will arise during the construction phase of the project and suggests a commitment to rail transport would be of significant benefit to the region and to Tasmania.

The submission supports the approval of the mill, on the basis that it meets the guidelines and standards set for it by the Tasmanian Government and the LCC.

Statement of Expertise

The Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union is the major union in the Australian Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Industry, representing more than 70% of the national and Tasmanian workforce.

Members of the CFMEU operate every existing pulp mill in Australia and most of the existing paper mills, the vast majority of which operate in regional Australia.

The CFMEU employs full time, professional staff with qualifications on workplace health and safety and environment, vocational education and training, economics and finance and social policy.

Elected CFMEU representatives who work in Tasmania's existing pulp and paper mills have reviewed this submission.

Introduction

A new pulp mill in Tasmania will directly and continuously contribute to Tasmanian society.

The Integrated Impact Statement provides an insight into some of the issues that the construction of a pulp mill will help to address including:

- Improved opportunities for skills development
- Improved income for families
- Increased opportunities for Tasmanian businesses
- Introducing new members into the vibrant northern communities

The desire by most Tasmanians for more downstream value adding of its natural resources, particularly its forest industry has been reflected by the support for value adding forest product projects by both the Labor and Liberal members of the Tasmanian parliament. Even the Greens in their recently revised forest policy acknowledge the desirability of downstream processing:

"Forest Industry Policy to be refocussed to:

- *develop a job rich value adding stream, using native timbers and plantation wood to their highest value*
- *create new investment in new enterprise that can add economic value to the State, including financial and personal assistance to individuals to enable them to adjust to the necessary changes"*¹

Operationally, the pulp mill must meet best practices and utilise best available technology to be approved and to continue to have regulatory approval over its operational life cycle. The involvement of representative employees and the community in ongoing monitoring is a crucial feature. As the principal trade union in the Australian and Tasmanian Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Industry, the CFMEU is well aware of the contribution made by pulp and paper mill employees to their communities over the very long operational life cycles of pulp mills.

During construction, the very large number of additional people in the region presents some issues that need to be addressed to mitigate negative impacts and take advantage of the community and business opportunities.

Construction Phase

The construction phase of the pulp mill is the largest direct boost to employment in the region. While this will bring significant economic benefits to the region it will have a range of both positive and negative social impacts. Gunns IIS identifies that even with mitigation there will be a moderate negative social impacts² during the construction phase.

The areas where impacts occur arise from two sources influx of a large number of new workers and construction activities.

Influx of workers

The current projections of worker numbers as outlined in the draft IIS suggests that at peak this will be around 2900 workers on site³ and on average in the second year of construction this would be about 2500 workers⁴.

¹ <http://greens.org.au/hotissues/tasforests> accessed 12 Sept 2006

² Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 2 p8-608

³ Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 8 Appendix 15 p27

⁴ Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 8 Appendix 15 p28

Given that the estimated Tasmanian workforce for the pulp mill is 40%⁵, it is reasonable to expect that these people will remain in Tasmania at the end of the project. But, the other 60% means that it can be expected that up to 1500 workers will be present in the region only for the construction phase.

Gunns has identified that this influx will result in pressure on rental in the area. Similar experiences have been shared in other parts of Australia where large projects have occurred. For example in Gladstone during the construction of the aluminium smelter, availability of rental accommodation was severely reduced and concurrently there was a significant rise in rental values, a feature that may take some time to abate after the end of the construction period.

Workers' accommodation facility and services

Gunns has indicated that it can mitigate some of the impacts of a large, relatively short term workforce by construction of a dedicated workers' accommodation facility and has proposed such a facility on the outskirts of Georgetown. However, it is noted that construction of this facility is a "last resort" option.

The CFMEU concurs with Gunns' view that a single workers' accommodation facility in the region should be a last resort. Past experience suggests that large construction workers facilities are not desirable. It is normally better to provide a number of smaller facilities scattered throughout the region than to rely on one central facility. This alternative approach spreads the positives (including the significant disposable income of the workforce) and the negatives of short term labour throughout the region.

Experience indicates that at least some of the short term construction workforce will choose to live in Launceston, either as single persons or where they travel with their families.

Another option that the CFMEU would encourage be considered, is the potential to use more off-site facilities located throughout Tasmania for manufacturing various parts of the installation. While slightly less efficient from a transport perspective, there is no reason that for example, concrete precasting and steel fabrication (particularly structural steelwork, pipe bridges and associated pipe work) could not be undertaken in either Burnie or Hobart and transported to the site for final erection. Such an approach would mean that some of the workforce could then be diffused into other parts of the State, expanding the benefits to other communities and further reducing the social pressures in the region. This may have the added advantage of providing additional employment opportunities for Tasmanians.

Nevertheless, there will still be a substantial increase of workers in the region. The CFMEU would encourage that a comprehensive program of activities be developed and implemented for the workforce throughout the construction phase. Such programs should be aimed at encouraging healthy physical activity such as team sports and individual pursuits (eg football, tennis, golf, bushwalking) and tourism based pursuits to other regions, including development of packages for interstate workers to bring their families to Tasmania for vacations. While such programs have the potential to put pressure on various sporting facilities in the area, there appears to be significant latent capacity to expand a number of those facilities identified in the IIS⁶. There is also the opportunity, with modest investment, to create additional recreational

⁵ Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 8 Appendix 15 p27

⁶ Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 8 Appendix 10 p14

facilities locally that would benefit the whole community (for example establishment of a gymnasium in Georgetown).

The CFMEU understands that a No Drugs No Alcohol policy will be in force on the site throughout the construction phase. The CFMEU is not aware of any existing pulp and paper mill in Australia that does not have an operational ban on drugs and alcohol in the workplace and we anticipate that this pulp mill will be no different.

A No Drugs or Alcohol policy is common across construction industries in Australia. It will act as a moderator to anti-social behaviour out of work hours. While it is not reasonable to expect a no alcohol policy at the workers' accommodation facility, it would be helpful if a more explicit statement on the management approach for the facility was developed. The CFMEU would expect Gunns and its construction partners to work with the CFMEU to implement the existing best practice programs that exist in this area.

While on the whole the workforce will be generally healthy, the physical nature of the work will no doubt result in a variety of needs for physiotherapy and rehabilitation. This aspect of local facilities is not well identified in the IIS document other than a note that there is a full time physiotherapist at Georgetown. While Launceston is only a further 10 minutes away from the pulp mill site than Georgetown, if the worker's accommodation facility is built at Georgetown some consideration of inclusion of space in the facility for physiotherapy treatment rooms may be warranted.

Construction activity impact

The construction phase will bring significant economic benefit to Tasmania. The Draft IIS estimates that at the peak of planned construction, the injection of additional salaries in the Georgetown area to be \$3.25million per month net of transport and accommodation. The economic modelling suggests that a total increase of \$98 million in the trade and accommodation sector during the period of pulp mill construction with \$39 million in the local area⁷.

This level of activity could see significant changes to the facilities that will be made available in Georgetown. Entertainment facilities in Gladstone for example increased because of the construction activity associated with the aluminium smelter in the town.⁸ Injection of up to \$39 million will greatly expand the business outlook and will naturally result in investment by existing businesses. In turn, this expansion will improve the attractiveness of the area for other residential and business opportunities.

The CFMEU sees it as important that a robust community liaison process be implemented at an early juncture. We support Gunns' commitment to establishing a community liaison committee⁹ and will offer the union's assistance to Gunns to see such a group established immediately. While it is clear that Gunns has made an effort to advise community groups of their intentions, it is not so clear that a positive dialogue with the community has been established. Immediate establishment and commitment by Gunns to a mature relationship with a community liaison committee would go a long way to providing the community with the

⁷ Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 8 Appendix 15 p44

⁸ <http://www.gladstoneregion.org.au/extractreport.jsp> accessed 12 Sep 2006

⁹ Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 4 p 6-281

confidence that Gunns will respond to the community's interests when implementing this project.

Gunns has provided a number of strategies its consultants believe will help to mitigate some of the impacts of the construction phase. The CFMEU would urge Gunns and its construction contract partners to involve the community more closely in planning mitigation strategies as it is likely that this approach will result in defining the real community concerns and methods for mitigating those concerns associated with the construction phase of the project.

Operations Phase

In general, the operating phase of the pulp mill will make an important regional contribution through creation of permanent jobs and injection of contracted services into the local economy. It is important to comment on some specific matters.

Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM)

The CFMEU welcomes as necessary and appropriate, the commitment of Gunns to the use of Best Available Technology and Best Practice Environmental Management¹⁰. It is significant to note that despite their excellent environmental records and credentials, no pulp mill in Australia, including in Tasmania, meets the guidelines set for this pulp mill.

The CFMEU has been disappointed at the attempted manipulation of concerns of the local population by those opposing the pulp mill. We have reviewed some of the highly publicised submissions such as that of the National Toxics Network. We find it incredible that an organisation that supposedly "...is a participating organisation of the International POPs Elimination Network and currently is working towards the effective implementation of the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (POPs) 2001..."¹¹ demonstrates such a low level of knowledge about the work that is being undertaken in the area of Persistent Organic Pollutants by expert groups working in that area. The sensationalism and misinformation this and other groups have sought to portray as fact raises serious questions on the ethical values they bring to the debate and brings into question their actual motivations and the motivations of those who support their incorrect assertions.

Occupational health & safety – a key and leading indicator of BPEM

The CFMEU believes that issues of science should be addressed to the LCC by scientists and should not be subject of sensationalism. However, it is employees who will always face first and most substantially the effect of any negative impacts of pulp mills because of their close proximity and continual contact with their workplace. For that reason, Occupational Health and Safety is a key and leading indicator of Best Practice Environmental Management.

We therefore make the following points with respect to the impact on the safety, health and welfare of workers in the general pulp and paper industry:

¹⁰ Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 4 p 6-267

¹¹ <http://www.oztoxics.org/ntn/indexfront.html> accessed 13 Sept 2006

- Employees in pulp and paper mills suffer the same levels of respiratory illness and cancers as the general population, even when taking into account the lower environmental performance standards of the past.
- Employees in pulp and paper mills have the same morbidity rates and average life expectancy as the general population, taking into account shift work.
- The rate of injury and illness in the pulp and paper industry is below comparable industries such as the oil and mining industries, a trend which continues to improve.

It is significant that Tasmania currently has pulp mills at Wesley Vale and Boyer and previously had pulp mills at Burnie and Port Huon. Because they were so much older, they operated to lower standards than the existing world's best practices. Yet, across the last 80 years, employees and the local community have not suffered, experienced or observed any significant detrimental, environmental effects because of the pulp mills, particularly when considering the critical issue of the health of employees and their families. If there was any such evidence, the CFMEU would have been and the first and would now be the first to raise the issues and demand that our union's members and their families be protected. The use by Gunns of BAT and BPEM is most likely to ensure that this record is continued on into its pulp mill.

It should also be noted that on a continuing basis, Gunns will be required to demonstrate it continues to meet all emission guidelines and that internally, like all businesses, it will be required to operate an Occupational Health and Safety Committee made up of its employees, who will be trained and able to address any issues of concern to them directly, their families and their community. As part of this process of ensuring that employees are at the forefront of ensuring the safe and environmental operation of the mill, the CFMEU will suggest to Gunns that they participate in the Pulp & Paper Industry Occupational Health, Safety & Environment Unit along with the CFMEU and the majority of their counterparts in the Australian industry.

Notwithstanding these checks and balances, BAT and BPEM approaches need to be seen as dynamic. Therefore, it is necessary that there be on-going and transparent interaction with the international pulp industry to ensure they are preserved over the life cycle of the mill.

The CFMEU suggests that Gunns commit to a process of continuous review by independent third parties of its pulp mill operation, making these reviews public, directly involving their employees and providing sponsorship of members of its community liaison group to obtain appropriate training and familiarisation of pulp mills and any emerging BAT and BPEM.

Ongoing monitoring and auditing

Expanding on this issue of ongoing transparency in the operation of the pulp mill, an important aspect of the mill operation is to ensure that the community is satisfied that the monitoring program is working as it should. The concept of self-monitoring is universally used in the western industrial world and should be used here. The CFMEU supports Gunns commitments to undertaking a comprehensive monitoring and audit program.¹²

However, the CFMEU expects Gunns to commit to employees being directly involved in any and all monitoring processes and to make provision for representatives from the Community

¹² Gunns Ltd Draft Integrated Impact Statement Volume 4 p 6-285-287

Liaison Committee to be included in monitoring teams on a voluntary basis to ensure that there is transparency in this process.

It should be noted that in the Australian industry, employees are generally involved in the monitoring processes and through the CFMEU, play a role that is largely independent of their employer. Participants in any ongoing monitoring would be expected to receive training in their role.

Gunns should make a commitment to place monitoring data on a public website and a further commitment to include members of the community liaison group on a voluntary basis in its environmental auditing process.

Odour

The CFMEU is aware that odour is a nuisance that has often been associated with pulp mill operations. While the techniques proposed by the mill design have the potential to minimise odour release, modern mill management processes include the use of an odour panel. The CFMEU believes that Gunns should make a commitment to establish the odour panel at an early juncture. In addition, the CFMEU is aware of a relatively inexpensive odour testing device developed in Australia by ENSIS and Covey Consulting. The CFMEU suggests that in addition to training for the odour panel, Gunns should provide members with an Odour Monitoring Station to further enhance the management of odour incidents.

To integrate this activity, the odour panel should be part of the Community Liaison Committee.

Downstream value adding

Others may be better placed than the CFMEU to comment on the precise value to Tasmania and Australia of downstream processing of what would otherwise be export woodchips. However, it is clearly the CFMEU's responsibility to ensure that it is clear that none of the additional employment would eventuate without the pulp mill.

Too often, economic effect is assumed to mean benefits for businesses. The advantage in the Georgetown region and to every Tasmanian from a significant number of new jobs gained by a massive reduction in exportation of woodchips and their subsequent processing in Tasmania is clearly every additional dollar earned and spent in Tasmania.

Power production

The CFMEU notes that Gunns will be utilising renewable, biomass energy generation and making a net contribution to the electricity grid through the operation of chemical recovery and power boiler technology.

Actual levels of net electricity contributions to the grid and the reductions in the carbon dioxide emissions that result relative to the use of fossil fuels should be monitored and reported by Gunns in consultation with the Community Liaison Committee.

Employment opportunities expand regional communities

The life cycle of pulp mills is such that they provide for long term, secure employment opportunities. It is common in Tasmania for employees to remain employed by existing pulp mills for more than 40 years.

The CFMEU expects that some younger, existing pulp and paper mill employees from Tasmania and Australia will seek ongoing employment at the mill. This will occur for three main reasons. First, because some workers will seek the most secure employment available in the national industry, in the interests of themselves and their families. Second, because some workers will seek the opportunity to be involved in a new mill. Third, because some workers will seek to move region or state for personal and family reasons, including the opportunity to take advantage of Tasmania's lifestyle opportunities.

While a generalisation, it is unlikely that significant numbers of older employees in the existing industry will seek employment at the mill, although they may be involved in a range of the peripheral businesses that will be required to expand to support the mill.

A younger group of people in the community can add renewed vigour to many traditional community groups, including sporting clubs and organisations that help support many basic community projects. In regional Australia, families are built around sustainable employment opportunities. It should therefore be anticipated that over the life cycle of the mill, younger workers at commencement will bring families with them and others will establish families over time.

Population expansion built around long term, secure employment opportunities will contribute in a predictable, structured and measurable manner to the further development of necessary social services such as primary and secondary schooling, child care, transportation and sporting and social facilities.

In short, the predictable population expansion will increase the density of population in the region, providing the need and opportunity for improved and increased social and community services for the whole region.

Those employees (whether direct or indirect) who enter the region will bring the flow on benefit of sustainability to other businesses in the region. Because of their relatively high disposable income, they will create the demand for and the establishment and sustainability of new facilities that the community has not previously enjoyed and that themselves will create additional employment opportunities. To underscore this, on average, the total wages of employees in Australian pulp mills are more than double the national average total wage.

To add to this, it is not without relevance that in Tasmania, where there are approximately 700 production and maintenance related employees in the pulp and paper industry, in representing its members, the CFMEU itself expends annually in excess of \$350,000 on employment, accommodation and hospitality, property and business services, transport services and printing and other media.

Education and training

Like every other pulp and paper mill in Australia, Gunns will be required to provide ongoing training and assessment to its employees to ensure that they are competent in their operating

positions, hold all of the relevant licences and can meet all of the requirements to operate a pulp mill.

While most of the operational training will normally be conducted on site, a wide range of training activities will generally be undertaken in the community. This is especially the case for training in more generic work functions, including First Aid, Emergency Services, Technology Operation, Materials Handling (forklifts, cranes etc). In some cases, especially where refresher training is being conducted, pulp mill employees would be expected to participate in general courses being conducted within the community.

The net effect of these additional training requirements is that relatively thin training markets will be 'thickened up', making their delivery more regular or more viable and allowing for the offerings to the local community to be expanded.

The CFMEU suggests that Gunns consider participating with the majority of its national peers and the CFMEU in the Pulp & Paper Industry Skills Development Unit to ensure they are contributing to and utilising the available training and education infrastructure for the industry.

New business opportunities

The pulp mill will also bring with it the potential for new and expanded businesses.

For example, the concept of industrial tourism is practiced in Gladstone¹³ with tours of the various heavy industries in the area. Mill tours are operated in pulp and paper mills across Australia and generally involve either groups of older school children who are examining their future employment options or older Australians. Generally, the newer and larger mills attract greater interest than the older or smaller mills. Locally, the existing mill at Burnie still conducts tours on an occasional basis, despite it having reduced its operations in recent times. A similar concept could be provided at Georgetown, with Georgetown having the added advantage of other industrial attractions that could be packaged into an industrial tour.

For other businesses, including those that would seek to expand to service the pulp mill or its employees and their families, the pulp mill will provide a level of increased economic activity that can provide the long term investment confidence needed for business investment.

Transport

During the operations phase one of the most evident impacts will be transport. While it has not been feasible to date to be definite about a transport option, the CFMEU believes that a commitment to rail should be made at the earliest possible juncture. This commitment should include using rail for transport in the traditional catchment wherever possible.

Rail transport options will contribute to state infrastructure, provide long term employment options and reduce road transportation.

¹³ http://www.gladstoneholidays.info/places_to_visit/gladstone-city/industry-tours.cfm accessed 12 Sep 2006.

Suggestions and Recommendations

In summary, in this submission, the CFMEU suggests and recommends:

- The immediate establishment by Gunns of a Community Liaison Committee, which activity the CFMEU will directly assist Gunns;
- Dispersion of the Workers' Accommodation Facilities throughout the region and the conduct of some major works off-site and in other Tasmanian regions to spread the construction population and the business and employment opportunities;
- Participation by Gunns in the Pulp & Paper Industry Occupational Health, Safety & Environment Unit to ensure a close day to day relationship on environmental and safety matters with the majority of the other pulp and paper manufacturers;
- Conduct of continuous review of BAT and BPEM with the full involvement of employees and the Community Liaison Committee;
- Participation by Gunns in the Pulp & Paper Industry Skills Development Unit to ensure contribution and access to the latest pulp and paper industry specific developments, advice and infrastructure in training and skills development.

Conclusion

The CFMEU believes that on balance the pulp mill development will have a socially positive impact on the Georgetown region, with some disruption to the region during the construction phase. Economic and social benefits will accrue to the region and to Tasmania to a significant level and with negligible negative impacts.

A key success factor will be the willingness of Gunns to deal closely with the local community and show trust in providing open dialogue and timely information flows.

The CFMEU would be pleased to expand further on these and other issues associated with the IIS and invites the LCC to contact the CFMEU should further information be required. The CFMEU will seek to participate in any additional public hearings conducted by the LCC.

-----Original Message-----

From: chris & sara strong [mailto:

Sent: Monday, 11 June 2007 7:36 PM

To: Frank Dixon

Subject: Application to speak at Public Meeting on Pulp Mill on Wed 20th June

Dear Mr Dixon

I commend Council on calling a Public Meeting regarding the proposal to construct and operate a pulp mill at Bell Bay.

I wish to apply for leave to speak at the meeting. I understand that speakers' time will be very limited and that you require in advance an indication of content.

The points I wish to comment on include:

- The method of accounting used to assess the benefit/deficit elements of the proposal;
- Whether The Community Engagement process accords with modern methods and standards exemplified elsewhere in Australia;
- The public view of official NRM inputs to the assessment process;
- Investment to date.

My contribution to your meeting will be personal as a ratepayer.

Please will you confirm receipt of this request and advise the exact length of time allowed to speakers.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Strong AM

13/06/2007