

# Some inconvenient truths for Gunns proposed pulp mill

Facts the Tasmanian Government and Gunns Ltd don't want people to know about the proposed Tamar valley pulp mill, Tasmania, Australia.

Timber company Gunns Ltd wants to build a 'world scale' pulp mill in the clean green Tamar valley. The proposal is planned to go ahead despite majority opposition from Tasmanians and Australians and massive risks to food production and fisheries, from air and water pollution, water shortages and release of carbon stores.

## Pollution of fisheries

64 000 tonnes/day of effluent including 150 tonnes/year of organochlorines to be dumped into slow flushing and shallow Bass Strait. Risks to commercial fisheries ignored by state government. Gunns' estimates of dioxins in effluent are too low by 1300 times say independent experts.

## Air pollution

The Tamar valley often forms an inversion layer that traps air pollutants. The valley is home to 100 000 people but there are no penalties for Gunns, or compensation for those hit by pulp mill smells.

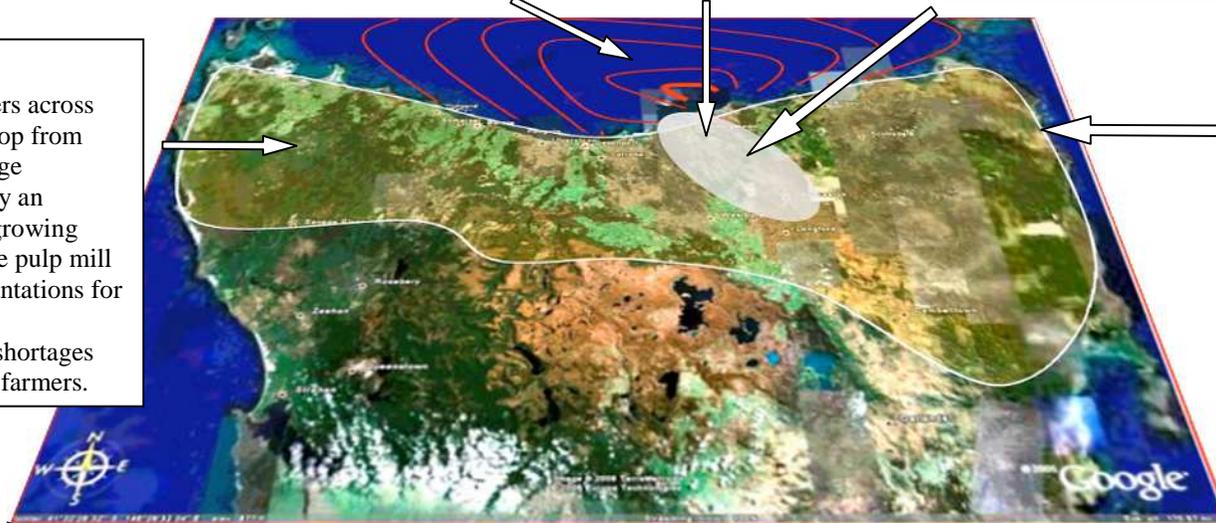
PULP MILL SITE

## Water shortages

Water levels in most major rivers across northern Tasmania are set to drop from both climate change and the huge quantities of water consumed by an estimated 4000 sq kms of fast growing plantations needed to supply the pulp mill and a further 3000 sq km of plantations for the woodchip export market. Large plantations create water shortages downstream for other users eg. farmers.

## Climate change

Logging area extends across northern Tasmania. Old native forests that contain high levels of stored carbon will be axed for the mill at an unprecedented rate and remaining wood burnt in furnaces releasing carbon dioxide.



## Government subsidies given to forest industry

More than \$200 million/year in subsidies as cash payments and cost relief, given to forest industry by government while hospitals and schools are desperately under-funded. Economic costs to fishing, farming, tourism and wineries that rely on clean green marketing are ignored by state government.

## Corrupted planning process

Gunns is a big donor to major political parties who support the pulp mill. Government has ignored 90% of the pulp mill impacts identified by the community and fast tracked the approval process with no public hearings. State Premier's approval rating plummeted to 24%. No risk assessment of the pulp mill was carried out.

You can help us fight this appalling proposal. Go to the website for more information.