



Dear Friends,

I'm writing to thank you for your continuing support in the campaign to stop Gunns' pulp mill and protect Tasmania's precious native forests. I also want to discuss updating any public materials of Greenpeace and ECA-Watch, particularly regarding the pulp mill.

Gunns have continually stated that their proposed pulp mill in northern Tasmania is 'world's best practice'. Unfortunately, opportunistic politicians have repeated this myth and created confusion with the community, shareholders, potential financiers etc.

The proposed pulp mill is in fact a long way from being world's best practice, particularly in relation to its feedstock, Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) bleaching technology and dioxin emissions, as well as emissions of SO₂, NO₂ and other pollutants¹. Swedish pulp producer Sodra, have however stated their pre-conditions of 100% Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified plantations and Total Chlorine Free (TCF) bleaching technology that could ensure a world's best practice pulp mill. The Wilderness Society has supported these minimum pre-conditions and would like to request that you communicate these in a future media and publications.

As you know Gunns recently announced that their proposed mill will be fed from the start by 100% plantation timber and the Wilderness Society has welcomed this commitment as step in the right direction. Gunns however have failed to agree to the additional pre-conditions set out above, are continuing to log Tasmania's native forests and still have a wood supply deal with Forestry Tasmania to supply up to 1MT per year for the next 20 years of native forest wood.

¹ A 'benchmarking' study submitted to Tasmania's Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2007¹, rated the Gunns proposed mill against 48 other mills built prior to 2005 and against environmental impacts such as effluent flow, dioxins and nitrogen dioxide.

The Gunns proposed mill was rated number 23 in terms of **chlorinated compounds, including** dioxin (AOX) flows to the marine environment; number 18 against nitrogen dioxide (NO₂); and number 14 against sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Graphs highlighting these three pollutants are contained overleaf.

http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/86154/Benchmarking_Gunns_Mill_Performance.pdf

The Wilderness Society Inc

57E Brisbane Street, Hobart, TASMANIA 7000

PO Box 716, Hobart, TAS, 7001, AUSTRALIA

Mobile: 0409 963 734

Email: paul.oosting@wilderness.org.au Website: www.wilderness.org.au

ABN: 62 007 508 349

FSC certification² is essential to give the community certainty that any possible mill will not simply entrench the continued destruction of Tasmania's high conservation value forests, as forests that were previously destined for the pulp mill are instead simply exported as woodchips.

TCF technology guarantees that no dioxins or other chlorinated compounds will be created or emitted through the production process, a major concern for the marine environment of Tasmania and the local fishing industry.

However, Gunns have stated in a presentation on the pulp mill from December 2009 that "the level of dioxins and furans in water emissions is guaranteed to 3.4 pg TEQ/l³". To put this in context please consider the below quote from Erik Nystrom, senior technical officer at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Mr Nystrom is the agency's specialist in pulp and paper production:

"In relation to Gunns, Mr Nystrom replied that by his calculations, the dioxin level that would trigger closure of the mill equals the amount of dioxins emitted in a year by the entire Swedish bleached pulp and paper industry -- which produces about seven times more bleached pulp than Gunns will produce."

A TCF mill does not generate dioxins at all. Even a modern ECF mill should be able to release non-detectable levels of dioxins.

As stated, the pre-conditions set by Sodra of 100% FSC certified plantation and TCF production technology have been welcomed by The Wilderness Society as a starting point for discussions for what may be acceptable in Tasmania. These pre-conditions offer hope for a real transformation of the forestry issue in Tasmania and Australia.

The other major problem with Gunns' proposed pulp mill is the site. Gunns is planning to build the mill in the Tamar Valley Tasmania. At his location the mill would have detrimental impacts on people's health and livelihoods. Any pulp mill development should be in a location where emissions do not endanger human

² FSC's 'policy of association' (in development) prevents entities gaining FSC certification for discreet aspects of their business while continuing potentially destructive practices in other areas.

³ Presentation by Brian Greenwood of Andritz and Peter Ryder of Poyry for Gunns Ltd. *Environmental Credentials of the Bell Bay Pulp Mill*. Slide 21. December 2009.

health or other industries, and which are of an appropriate size for the plantation resource available

While the fight is far from over we are, with your support, winning the battle. It would be extremely useful if you were able to convey in a media statement, or any other communications (protest, letters to banks etc) that any entity (banks, technology providers etc) assessing their involvement in this project only do so on the basis of the pre-conditions highlighted above.

I look forward to assisting in drafting any materials if required and thank you again for your ongoing support in this campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Oosting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline for the letter 'g'.

Paul Oosting
Pulp mill and corporate campaigner
The Wilderness Society
Phone: +61 409 963 734
Skype: pauloosting
Email: paul.oosting@wilderness.org.au