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MEDIA RELEASE



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COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENTAL ASSESSMENT ADDRESSES PULP MILL MATTERS

The Commonwealth Minister, Malcolm Turnbull has no need to hold grave concerns for the environment of Bass Strait.

As a result of a thorough investigation by Federal Environment Departmental experts and carefully considering hundreds of public submissions on the issue the Department found that it was unlikely that the proposed Bell Bay pulp mill would have any significant impact on Bass Strait.

“This is great news for timber dependent communities who want to ensure the mill will be clean, green and sustainable.” Mr **Barry Chipman**, Tasmanian State Manager of Timber Communities Australia said today.

“The Federal Department advice should allay concerns over fishing, surfing or the flora and fauna of Bass Strait.

In Minister Turnbull’s Department of Environment and Water review of the marine impact assessment the Department advised the Minister that;

“The Department’s Environment Protection Branch (EPB) has reviewed the Preliminary Documentation and supplementary information submitted by Gunns, public submissions, the scientific literature and other sources, with particular focus on possible impacts from pollutants in the ocean outfall on the marine environment in Commonwealth waters.”[Executive Summary]

The report concluded *“Based on the available evidence, EPB has not identified any likely significant impacts on the marine environment in Commonwealth waters from the proposed pulp mill.”* [Page 1]

This finding was also confirmed in the Recommendations to the Minister:

“Based on the available evidence, the Department has not identified any likely significant impacts on the marine environment in Commonwealth waters from the proposed pulp mill.” [Recommendations Report Paragraph 36]

In light of these Federal recommendations TCA is amazed that the environmental credentials of the proposed ECF Bell Bay pulp mill are still questioned despite all reports including the World Bank giving ECF bleaching a “green thumbs up” Mr Chipman concluded.

Ends.

More information contact Barry on 03 6260 4442 or 0417 013336