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MEDIA RELEASE



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MIXED MESSAGES ON PULP MILL – LOCAL ELECTION POLL

Voters in the Tasmanian local government election have shown that whilst the pulp mill might have had some impact on the polls it is both positive and negative.

Pro mill Mayors in Georgetown, West Tamar, Meander Valley and Northern Midlands were returned, yet despite topping the poll, with a massive 34% primary vote increase Launceston's pro mill Mayor lost his title.

Down south, in the greenest part of the greenest Federal electorate of Denison, less than 50% of electors voted on questions on the pulp mill.

"The strong vote for pro mill candidates is matched by the poor showing by many candidates that were identified as being against the mill." Mr. Barry Chipman, Timber Communities Australia Tasmanian State Manager said today

"One anti pulp mill lobby group promoted 48 candidates as anti pulp mill; about three quarters of these have failed to be elected"

"The Launceston city council result shows that whilst the Mayor was defeated, his personal vote increased by 34%, pretty sure any federal politician would jump at the chance to gain such a massive upward swing.

In 2005 Ivan Dean was elected mayor after receiving only 7272 votes. This election after supporting the pulp mill, Mr Dean topped the mayoral poll with 9788 votes. This is a massive increase of over 2,500 votes or 34%.

Pro mill Mayors in George Town and Meander were returned, and Northern Midlands and West Tamar Mayors were elected un- opposed. These four together with the former Launceston Mayor have been strong supporters of the mill.

Flinders Island Mayor a major critic of the mill was soundly defeated.

In the Hobart Poll the returns for the three questions on the assessment process, the mill's pulping process and its location were very poor. Returning only 49.82%, 48.96% and 49.51% of those able to vote.

"Judging by these figures the electors no longer have the pulp mill as a major negative issue, for many they are happy to support pro mill candidates.

"The results of these local government elections show that there is strong support for candidates that are prepared to support their communities despite attacks by the extreme greens."

"TCA members congratulate these candidates throughout the state for having the courage to stand up for the future of their region"

"TCA believes that voters are starting to see through many of the alarmist and false claims about the pulp mill, and are looking for candidates that are prepared to examine all issues confronting the community not just a single issue that is now almost history." Mr. Chipman concluded.

For more information Barry Chipman 6260 4442 or 0417 013336