

Media Release

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## PULP MILL JOINT VENTURE ANNOUNCEMENT WELCOMED BY TASMANIAN TIMBER FAMILIES

Members of Timber Communities Australia welcome today's announcement that Gunns has decided on a joint Venture Partner for its approved Bell Bay pulp mill.

"Despite a dishonest campaign of misinformation and harassment of Australian and International institutions by opponents to the approved, job creating Bell Bay pulp mill, timber families can now see the light at the end of the tunnel." Ms Eva Down, Northern Tasmania Coordinator said today.

In the middle of a downturn created by the Global Financial Crisis this announcement of a joint venture partner to build the Bell Bay pulp mill is like seeing a rainbow after a stormy day as the mill will provide over 1600 jobs once it is operational.

TCA is pleased that this announcement of joint venture and progress towards securing finance comes after the submission of a detailed design report to Tasmania's EPA.

This report is important to timber families as it shows that the Bell Bay Elemental chlorine free mill is designed for plantation timber not old growth. It states that native forest eucalypt will only be used in the initial years until it is 100% plantation based. This initial pulp wood will only be from regrowth, multiple use native forest.

Also important is that the design also shows that conditions relating to air quality and to odour will be met and that the mill will be one of the cleanest in the World.

TCA looks forward to welcoming the new partner for the value adding Bell Bay pulp mill as Tasmania's regional communities desperately need secure jobs. The mill will play a key role in underpinning community social and economic well being by providing those much needed jobs.

"This announcement shows that the long journey to have a value adding, approved pulp mill built in Tasmania is nearing an end and Tasmanian timber families now eagerly await the final go ahead announcement." Ms Down concluded.

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