



The site for the pulp mill is in the Georgetown industrial estate in Tamar Valley. Whilst the population is 100,000 the vast majority is within Launceston & suburbs

Tamar Valley - Launceston to mill 35 km

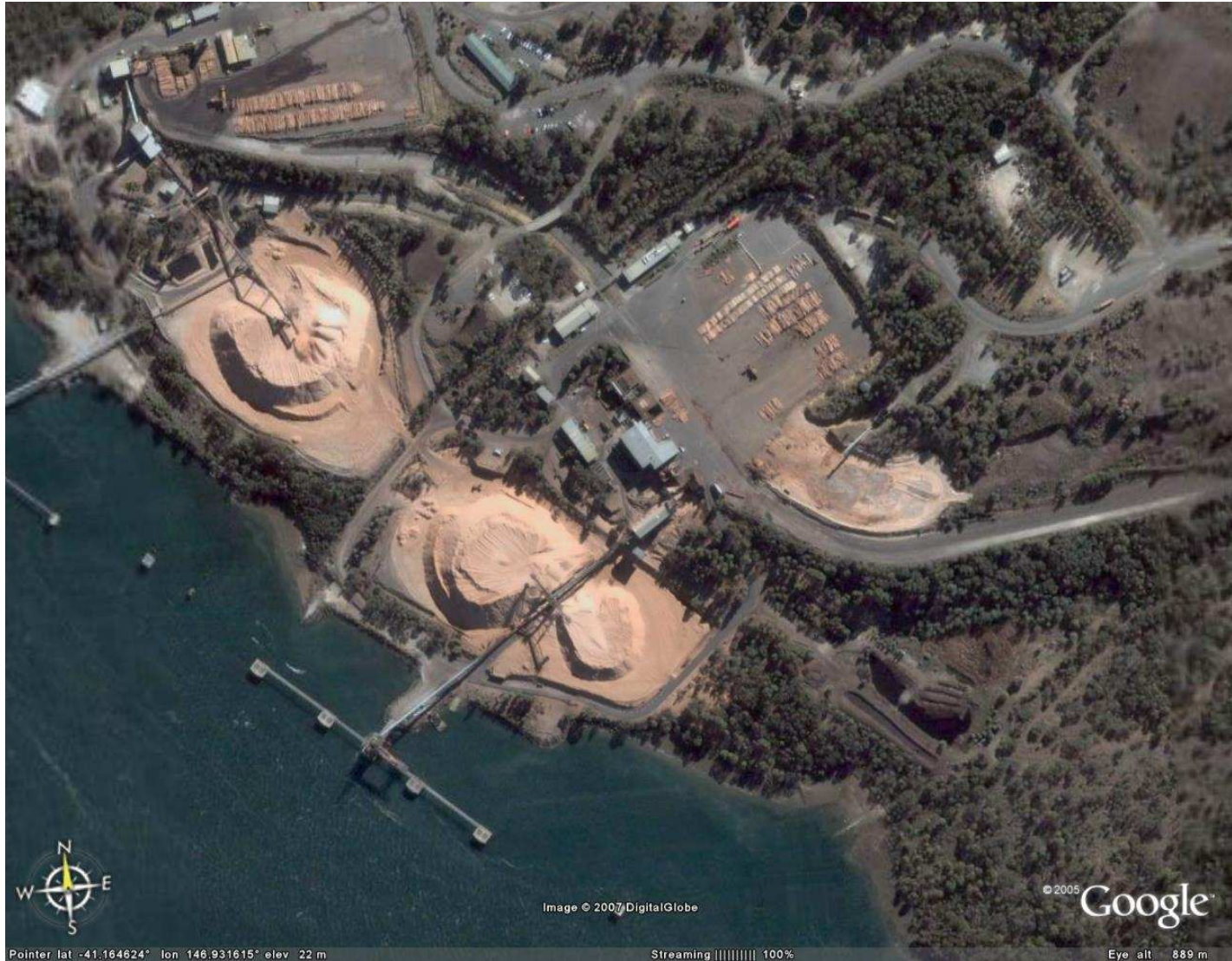
Georgetown Heavy Industrial Zone,



The Bell Bay Precinct is already the most significant industrial estate in Tasmania, with a large number of major operations within its borders including the:

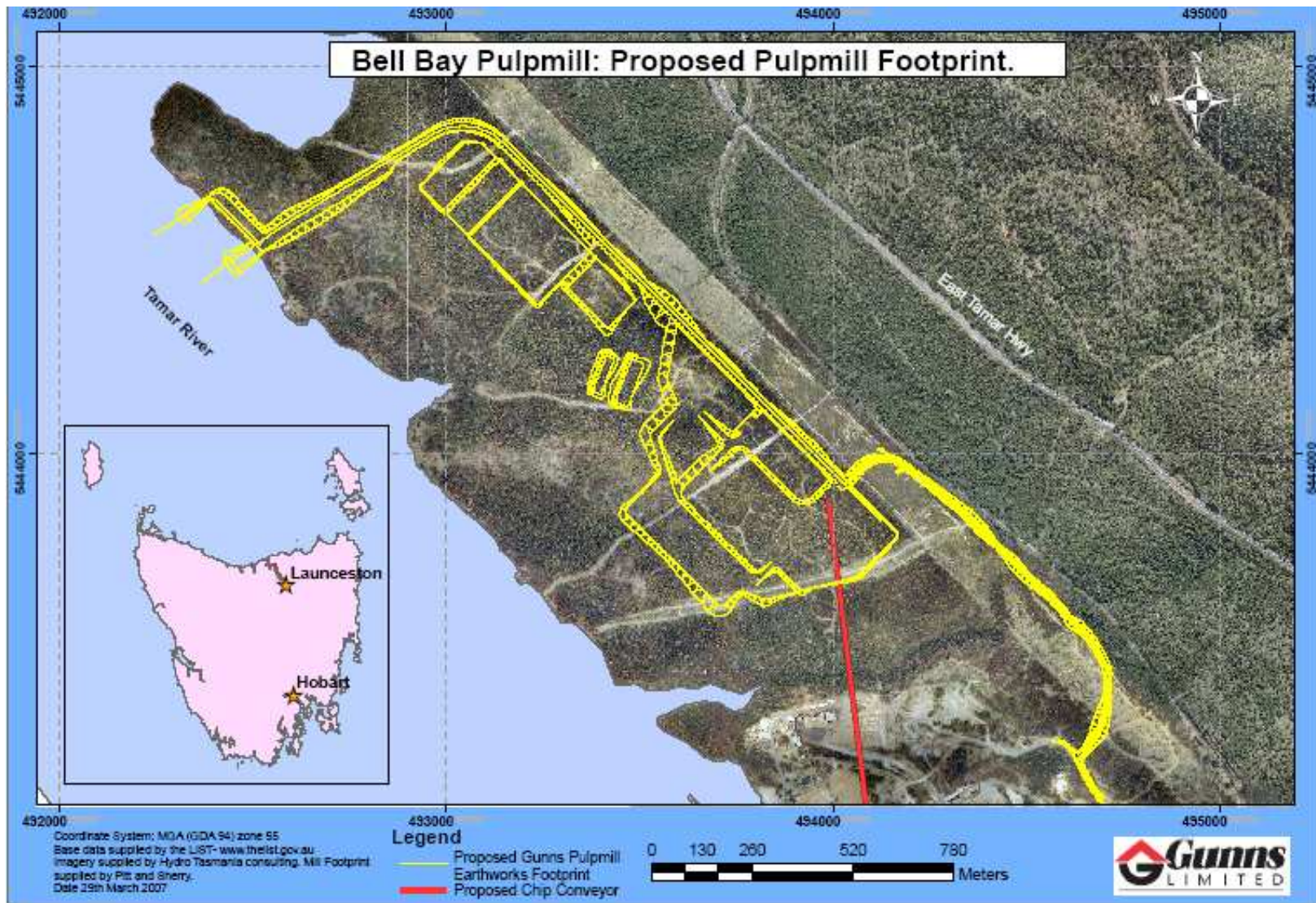
- Comalco Aluminium smelter; TEMCO ferro-alloy processing plant; Port of Launceston;
- Export woodchip facilities from Artec and TasFibre; Eckagranules aluminium powder plant;
- George Town Seafood processing facility; SVP Industries plant; Bell Bay Power station, FEA sawmill and Gunns woodchip mills.

Until recently it was also the site of the Starwood MDF plant,



The current situation shows the woodchip export mills operating since the early 1970's
A close look reveals 6 log trucks on the entry road
Instead of being loaded in ships, the woodchips will go on a conveyor belt to...

THE TWO GUNNS WOODCHIP MILLS



Four green tonnes of woodchips are currently exported for about \$360, when the pulp made from these hits the new wharf, the current price is over \$800 per Adt That's value adding.



Surrounding land use, vineyards, flowers, rural residential and lots of bush.
– Note large Tamar Ridge Vineyard at bottom of photo

The chemical reactions can produce odours, but these are well understood, and the mill is designed to minimise them, here is a report of how they were dealt with in NSW three years ago.

REDUCING pulp odour

A collaboration between ensis and Visy Pulp and Paper is helping the company fine-tune operations at its new kraft mill in Tumut, NSW, to maximise environmental performance and product quality.

A Melbourne-based ensis team, led by Dr Warwick Raverty, has addressed an issue common to kraft pulp mills around the world; odour resulting from minute leaks of the process by-products hydrogen sulfide ('rotten-egg gas') and various organic sulfides. Scandinavians used to call this 'the smell of money', says Dr Raverty, because of the employment opportunities kraft mills offer.

Modern design and engineering have greatly reduced the problem in the state-of-the-art Tumut mill that began operation in 2001. However, Visy is very proud of its environmental performance reputation and was keen to achieve the absolute minimum levels of odour emissions. Visy engaged CSIRO and a consultancy company to look for any appreciable sources within the mill and devise solutions to minimise discharges.

To locate possible sources, the ensis scientists built a device able to collect sufficient quantities of the odour chemicals for laboratory analysis, despite their extremely low concentrations in the air. Chemical 'fingerprinting' pinpointed the four main sources from about 130 possibilities.

Dr Raverty says the high level of water recycling in the mill – which means it uses less water per tonne of pulp produced than any other kraft mill in the world, a major environmental plus – creates the potential for a build-up of the odour chemicals. Measurable emissions were found to emanate from the distilled water stream in the recycling plant.

The scientists have devised a system for 'stripping' the odours out of the distilled water, and tested it successfully in a pilot plant. The technique, used widely in the chemical and petroleum industries, involves passing a stream of tiny air bubbles through the water, which carry out the chemicals. Visy now plans to install a full-scale odour-stripping unit at the mill in the next few months.



Source ENSIS
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ensis scientist, Michael