

STATEMENT

RUTH FORREST MLC
PO BOX 104
WYNYARD TAS 7325
TEL: 03 6443 8600
FAX: 03 6443 8603

GUNNS PULP MILL PROPOSAL

I have, and continue to be a firm supporter of a sustainable Tasmanian Forestry industry that has a strong focus on down-stream processing.

I have, and continue to support the development of a Pulp Mill in Tasmania, provided any particular project is assessed through a rigorous, independent process drawing on the appropriate expertise. Such a process must ensure the project meets the social, economic and environmental standards established by guidelines that currently exist to guide this process. The RPDC is, or was, until recently, the process that was deemed appropriate by this Government to provide the required high standard of assessment.

I support the RPDC process and without any details on a new proposal for assessment, I am unable to comment on the merit of such a process, but assure the people of Tasmania that I will be very carefully considering any proposal that is presented.

I also wish to note that I am very concerned that such a precedent could be set that would allow any development, regardless of its merit, to be offered alternatives to what I regard as an independent and rigorous assessment process. The RPDC process is recognised by the Federal Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 1999 Act, as a Federally accredited assessment process and any other process may well not be, an issue that may see any Tasmanian process of approval, potentially requiring further assessment under the EPBC Act, with associated assessment delays.

*Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Independent Member for Murchison*

*PO Box 104
Wynyard
TAS 7325*

*(03)6443 8600 (BH)
(03)6443 8603 (Fax)
0419 879 524 (Mob)*

20th March 2007

For further information, please email ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au.