

Gunns Limited

Bell Bay Pulp Mill

DRAFT INTEGRATED IMPACT STATEMENT

PROJECT INFORMATION BULLETIN

Introduction

Gunns Limited (Gunns) is proposing to construct and operate a bleached Kraft pulp mill on the Tamar River near Bell Bay in northeast Tasmania (Project). The Project has been declared a project of State Significance (POSS) pursuant to the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* (Tas) (SPP Act).

The Project must be assessed and approved under both Tasmanian and Commonwealth environmental legislation. An integrated impact assessment of the Project is being undertaken by the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) pursuant to the SPP Act. The integrated assessment of the Project by the RPDC has been accredited by the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Heritage under the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act).

Assessment and Approvals Process

The draft Integrated Impact Statement (Draft IIS) is a consolidated document that meets the requirements of the SPP Act and the EPBC Act.

The SPP Act establishes an integrated assessment and approval process for POSS. The integrated assessment of a POSS involves consideration of all environmental, economic and social issues relevant to that project.

On 22 November 2004, the Administrator made an Order which declared the Project to be a POSS. The Order has been approved by both Houses of Parliament in the *State Policies and Projects (Project of State Significance) Order 2004*.

The Premier directed the RPDC to undertake an integrated assessment of the Project in accordance with the requirements of the SPP Act and the seven additional requirements set out in the Premier's direction dated 26 November 2004.

The integrated assessment process for the Project is outlined in Figure 1.

The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage has decided the Project is to be a controlled action under the EPBC Act and has accredited the integrated assessment process carried out in accordance with the SPP Act.

In summary, the main stages of the project assessment and approval process are:

-  The Tasmanian Premier gave the RPDC a written direction to undertake an integrated assessment of the POSS. This occurred for the Project on 26 November 2004;
-  Draft Scope Guidelines for the IIS have been publicly exhibited twice, and the final version was published on 23 December 2005;
-  The proponent of the Project (Gunns) prepares the Draft IIS in accordance with the finalised Scope Guidelines;

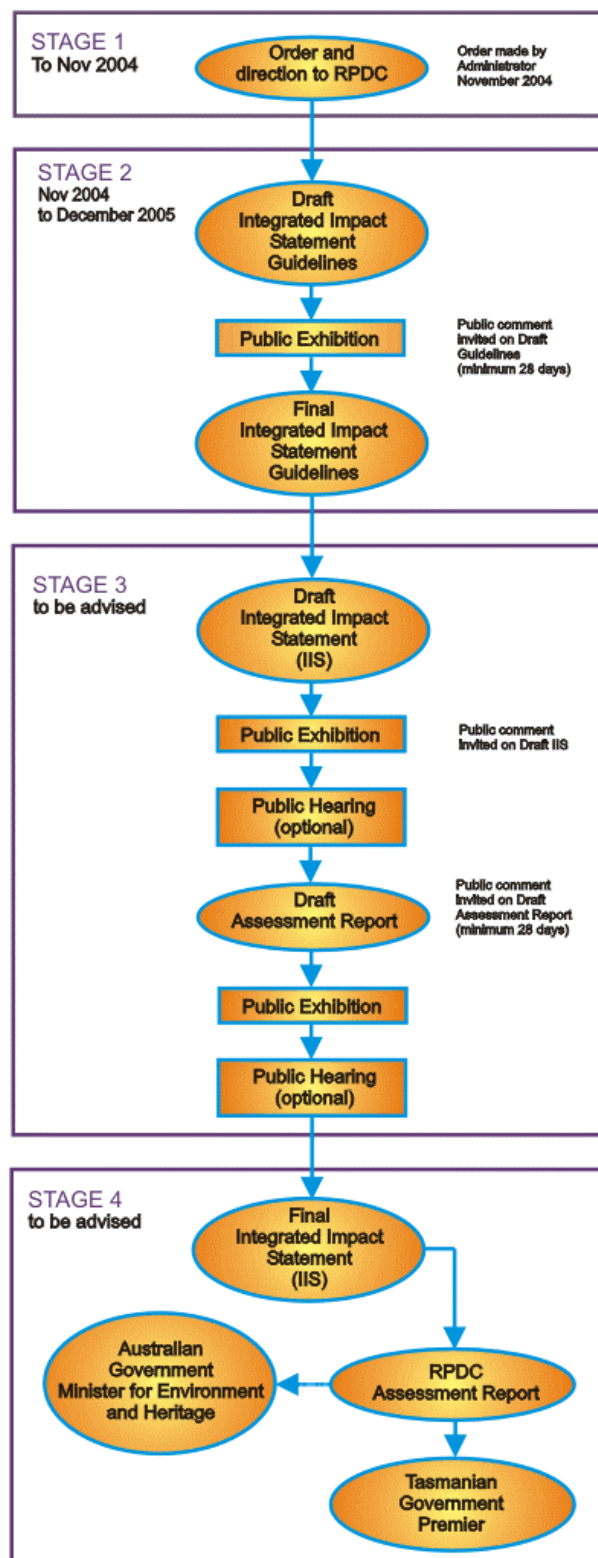


Figure 1 Assessment and Approvals Process

Source: www.rpdc.tas.gov.au

-  The proponent submits its Draft IIS to the RPDC. The RPDC places the Draft IIS on public display and invites interested persons and organisations to make a written submission. If appropriate, the RPDC will conduct public hearings. Agencies with an interest in the Project are asked to comment on the Project during this period;
-  The RPDC prepares the Draft Integrated Assessment Report (DIAR);
-  The DIAR is placed on public exhibition;
-  The RPDC considers the representations on the DIAR, and may conduct a public hearing for the purpose of considering representations; and
-  The DIAR is amended (if required) and finalised and is submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Heritage and to the Tasmanian Premier, with recommendations on whether or not the project should proceed and, if so, the conditions that should regulate the Project.

Tasmanian Order

After receiving the final report from the Commission, the Premier has 28 days to consider it before making a recommendation to the Governor on whether the Project should be approved and, if so, the conditions to which it will be subject.

The Governor may then make an Order approving the Project.

The Order will need to identify any approvals or permits which are required under any other Tasmanian legislation for the Project, the conditions of those permits and authorisations, and the authorities responsible for enforcing those approvals or permits.

Commonwealth Approval

The RPDC will provide its Integrated Assessment Report to the Commonwealth Minister who must then decide whether or not to approve the project under the EPBC Act.

If the project is approved, the approval must specify the action that may be taken, the name of the person who may take the action, which of the protected matters under the EPBC Act the approval applies to, the period for which the approval has effect, and any conditions attached to the approval.

Construction and Operation of the Pulp Mill

Gunns may commence construction of, and operate, the Project only after:

-  The Tasmanian Governor's Order has been made; and
-  The Commonwealth Minister has granted an approval under the EPBC Act.

The construction and operation of the Project must comply with all conditions contained in the Order and the approval.

The Integrated Impact Statement

The Draft IIS has been prepared to fulfil these assessment requirements by detailing the:

- Design and construction of the Project;
- Existing social, natural and economic environments at a local, regional and state level;
- Potential environmental impacts from the Project;
- Potential economic impacts from the Project;
- Potential social and community impacts from the pulp mill and other off-site and ancillary infrastructure; and
- Proposed mitigation measures to minimise or prevent adverse environmental, economic, social and community impacts on the surrounding area.

The Draft IIS has been prepared in accordance with the *Final Guidelines for an Integrated Impact Statement- proposed bleached Kraft pulp mill by Gunns Limited* (Scope Guidelines) developed by the RPDC and issued on 23 December 2005.

Recommended environment emissions are described in the *Environmental emission guideline limits for any new bleached eucalypt Kraft pulp mill in Tasmania* approved by the Tasmanian Government in 2004 (Emission Guidelines) and, to the extent they are relevant, are addressed in this Draft IIS.

The Draft IIS comprises the following:

- **Project Information Bulletin** (this document), providing a brief outline of the assessment and approval process, an explanation of the function of the Draft IIS and an explanation of the process for public participation.
- **Executive Summary**, providing a detailed overview of the Project and its environmental, economic and social and community implications for distribution to communities and interest groups; and
- The **Main Report and Appendices (Specialist Studies)**, which address the Scope Guidelines.

The Main Report consists of four principal volumes, together with 14 volumes of appendices. The contents of each volume is:

- **Volume 1: Introduction and Overview** - Provides an introduction to: the Project and assessment process; the need for and context of the Project; description of the existing regional environment; consultation undertaken as part of the Draft IIS; the site selection process; and a technical description of the Project.

-  **Volume 2: Bell Bay Study Area (Pulp Mill, Wharf, Landfill, Quarry, and Water Reservoir)** - Provides a description of: the existing environment in the immediate area of the proposed pulp mill site; impact assessment methodology applied; and potential impacts and management measures for the pulp mill, wharf facility, landfill, quarry, and water reservoir.
-  **Volume 3: Water Supply Pipeline, Effluent Pipeline, and Temporary workers accommodation facility** - Provides a description of: the existing environment in the immediate area; impact assessment methodology applied; and potential impacts and management measures for the water supply pipeline, effluent pipeline, and temporary workers accommodation facility.
-  **Volume 4: Management Plans and Conclusions** - Provides management plans for the environment, health and safety, monitoring and environmental management systems. The plans detail objectives, persons responsible, actions, monitoring requirements and corrective actions. Conclusions of the Draft IIS are also presented and commitments made by Gunns are outlined.
-  **Volumes 5 to 18: Appendices** - Provides specialist technical reports prepared as part of the Draft IIS process.

A detailed road map can also be found at the front of Volume 1 and on the website outlining the structure and location of documents and studies within the Draft IIS.

Information on Public Exhibition

Copies of the Gunns pulp mill Draft IIS Executive Summary, Main report, and Appendices will be on public display from 14th July 2006 to 25th September 2006 at locations as detailed in Attachment 1.

Purchase of the Draft IIS

Electronic and hard copies of the complete Draft IIS can be purchased as follows:

-  Project Information Bulletin: free.
-  Executive Summary: free.
-  Draft IIS Main Report (Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4): \$70 inc. GST.
-  Appendices (Specialist Studies) (Volumes 5 to 18): available on website and cd only.
-  CD containing the whole Draft IIS (Volumes 1-18): free

Documents can be ordered by contacting:

Gunns Limited

78 Lindsay Street, Launceston 7250, Tasmania.

or, PO Box 572, Launceston 7250

E-mail: iisrequests@gunns.com.au

Toll free hotline : 1800 265 297

Phone (03) 6335 5201

Fax (03) 6335 5498

The Project Information Bulletin, Executive Summary, Draft IIS (Main Report and Appendices - Specialist Studies) are available on the Internet at:

<http://www.gunnspulpmill.com.au>

Opportunity for the Public to Comment on the Draft IIS

Public comment on the Draft IIS will be invited through public notices in Tasmanian and national newspapers. Interested persons and organisations have until 4:30pm on 25th September 2006 to comment in writing on the Draft IIS during the public exhibition period.

Public submissions will be considered by a four member Panel established by the RPDC to carry out the assessment of the Project. The Commission has delegated to the Panel its powers and functions under the SPP Act and the *Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997*, enabling the Panel to undertake an integrated assessment of the Project.

Persons who lodge a written submission on the Draft IIS may, at the invitation of the Commission, make a presentation at the hearing.

How to Lodge a Submission

If you intend to lodge a submission, you will need to:

-  Identify the proposal on which you are commenting and provide your name and address;
-  Where relevant, identify any special interest you have in the proposal;
-  If you are commenting on specific text within the Draft IIS, mention the section number and heading used in the Draft IIS;
-  Make your comments; and
-  Indicate whether you wish to make a presentation at the panel hearings.

Written submissions should be sent by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Executive Commissioner
 Resource Planning and Development Commission
 3rd Floor, 144 Macquarie Street,
 GPO Box 1691
 Hobart, TAS 7000
 Telephone: (03) 6233 2795
 Fax: (03) 6233 5400
 E-mail: enquiry@rpdc.tas.gov.au

Submissions should preferably be on A4 size paper and in black ink to facilitate copying. All submissions will be treated as public documents unless a case to the contrary is accepted by the Commission.

Deadline for Lodging Submission

Written submissions, including faxed or e-mailed submissions, must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on 25th September 2006. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Further Information from Gunns

Gunns Limited has established a comprehensive consultation program, ensuring any person wishing to acquire further information about the Project proposal can do so. Ongoing information sources include:

-  Toll free 1800 265 297 number;
-  Email address: pulpmill@gunns.com.au;
-  Gunns Pulp Mill Website: www.gunnspulpmill.com.au;
-  Gunns will use the media as appropriate to explain aspects of the pulp mill project.

Further Information from the RPDC

For information about the integrated assessment process please refer to the Commission's website or contact the Commission;.

Resource Planning and Development Commission
 3rd Floor, 144 Macquarie Street,
 GPO Box 1691
 Hobart, TAS 7000
 Telephone: (03) 6233 2795
 Fax: (03) 6233 5400
 E-mail: enquiry@rpdc.tas.gov.au

PUBLIC VIEWING LOCATIONS OF DRAFT INTEGRATED IMPACT STATEMENT (IIS)

HARD COPIES OF FULL DRAFT IIS CONSISTING OF:
MAIN REPORT (VOLUME 1 - 4) + ALL SUPPORTING STUDIES (VOLUME 5-18)
INCLUDING CD ROM IN FRONT COVER OF VOLUME 1 A

<u>Library/Location</u>	<u>Address</u>
Beaconsfield Library	Beaconsfield Street Primary School, Grubb Street, Beaconsfield
Burnie Library	30 Alexander Street, Burnie
Devonport Library	1 Oldaker Street, Devonport
George Town Library	Regent Square, George Town
Hobart Lending Library	1st Floor, 91 Murray Street, Hobart
Launceston Lending Library	Civic Square, Launceston
Launceston Reference Library	Civic Square, Launceston
Resource Planning and Development Commission	3rd Floor, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart
State Reference Library	2nd Floor, 91 Murray Street, Hobart

HARD COPIES OF MAIN REPORT DRAFT IIS ONLY (VOLUMES 1 - 4)
INCLUDING DC ROM IN FRONT COVER OF VOLUME 1A

<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>
Bothwell Library	Alexander Street, Bothwell
Bridgewater Library	Green Point Road, Bridgewater
Bridport Library	Main Street, Bridport
Campbell Town Library	High Street, Campbell Town
Cape Barren Island Library	Cape Barren Island School
Currie Library	Meech Street, King Island
Cygnets Library	Mary Street, Cygnets
Deloraine Library	Emu Bay Road, Deloraine
Department of Environment and Heritage Library, Canberra	Jon Gorton Building, Crn King Edward Terrace and Parkes Place, Canberra
Exeter Library	Main Road, Exeter
Geeveston Library	Church Street, Geeveston
George Town Council	16 - 18 Anne Street, George Town
Glenorchy Library	Terry Street, Glenorchy
Huonville Library	1 Skinner Drive (Cnr Skinner Drive and Sale Street), Huonville
Kingston Library	11 Hutchins Street, Kingston
Launceston City Council	Civic Square, Launceston
Longford Library	Wellington Street, Longford
New Norfolk Library	Charles Street, New Norfolk
Northern Midlands Council	13 Smith Street, Launceston
Nubeena, Tasman Community Library	Tasman District High School, Nubeena
Oatlands Community Library	High Street, Oatlands
Orford Library	Charles Street, Orford
Parliamentary Library	Parliament House, Hobart
Penguin Library	Main Street, Penguin
Queenstown Library	Community College, Driffield Street, Queenstown
Ravenswood Library	Eastside Village Shopping Centre, Ravenswood
Ringarooma Library	Main Street, Ringarooma
Rosebery Library	Morrisby Street, Rosebery
Rosny Library	Bligh Street, Rosny
Scottsdale Library	51 King Street, Scottsdale
Sheffield Library	Sheffield District High School, Henry Street, Sheffield
Smithton Library	Nelson Street, Smithton
Sorell Library	Cole Street, Sorell
St Helens Library	Cecilia Street, St Helens
St Marys Library	31 Main Street, St Marys
Swansea Library	Swansea School, Swansea
Ulverstone Library	15 King Edward Street, Ulverstone
Wayatinah Library	Community Centre, Wayatinah
West Tamar Council	West Street, Beaconsfield
Westbury Library	William Street, Westbury
Whitemark Library	Davey Street Flinders Island
Wynyard Library	13 Exhibition Link, Wynyard
Zeehan Library	Main Street, Zeehan