

Turnbull Fails Environment Test

GetUp! joins the broader Australian community in decrying the Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull's approval announcement of the Gunns' pulp mill in the Tamar Valley.

"This issue was Turnbull's first big environmental test. Make no mistake – voters in all electorates are watching the outcome of this decision," said GetUp! Executive Director, Brett Solomon.

"The conditions placed on the mill are likely to do little to allay the concerns held over this development – a mill on this scale in any form will be harmful for Tasmania's environment and economy.

"The Minister has failed and the community will take notice. This decision will bite all parties all the way to the ballot box."

"Gunns has treated this process as a foregone conclusion, and despite overwhelming opposition from the community, the Minister has played directly into their hands."

There was a widespread public response to the Inquiry with over 25,000 GetUp! members sending individual submissions to the Minister expressing their serious misgivings. This includes over 1000 of his constituents in Wentworth.

"Had the Minister's inquiry looked into the full range of ramifications, it is unlikely that the mill would have been allowed to proceed. It should worry all Australians that powerful corporations can so easily determine the outcome of a matter of public interest."

"The community – from all over Australia, has expressed their opposition to the pulp mill and the Minister has ignored them. The Australian community is rightly questioning why the Minister even bothered to ask," said Mr Solomon.

"The Australian community expected an appropriately positioned and non-polluting mill using no native forests. What we have been delivered is a ill-thought development which will harm Tasmania's environment and economy."

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/NoPulpMill>

For comments please contact Brett Solomon on 0407 419 320

About GetUp: GetUp.org.au is an independent movement to build a progressive Australia. GetUp brings together like-minded people who want to bring participation back into our democracy. GetUp has over 200,000 members nationwide, more than every political party combined.