



MEDIA RELEASE

AMA COMMENT ON TAMAR VALLEY PULP MILL

The Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Medical Association is making a final comment on the Tamar Valley Pulp Mill.

Speaking in Launceston today Dr Andrew Jackson, AMA spokesman, said “The AMA is not opposed as a matter of principle to large-scale industrial development in Tasmania. The AMA respects the decision made today however Mr Turnbull was unable to investigate atmospheric impacts on human health. ”

The AMA has long held concerns regarding four potential health issues which, when taken together, may constitute adverse human health impacts:

- Particulate air pollution in a valley with a well-documented atmospheric inversion layer close to a large population centre.
- Odour having more than mere nuisance value with adverse health effects such as nausea, headache, and respiratory symptoms.
- Increased heavy vehicle traffic-related accidents.
- Bioaccumulation of toxins in the food chain such as dioxins and furans.

Dr Jackson said “The AMA in Tasmania has a long history of careful scrutiny of public health policy including wood smoke pollution in the Tamar Valley, health risks of tobacco smoking in public places, and ongoing toxicology risks associated with Tasmanian drinking water. The AMA will continue to monitor and evaluate the health of residents.”

For further information contact AMA State Office on 62232047. AMA Spokesman can be contacted on 6336-0555.