



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **AMA UNABLE TO SUPPORT PROPOSED TAMAR VALLEY PULP MILL**

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The Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Medical Association is unable to support the construction of the proposed Tamar Valley Pulp Mill which is being debated in State Parliament this week.

Speaking in Launceston today Dr Andrew Jackson, AMA Tasmania Pulp Mill spokesman, said that the issue had been considered at length by a select AMA subcommittee comprising a cross-section of the medical profession including occupational, public health and respiratory physicians.

“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.”

Dr Jackson said that the AMA’s main concern is that the Tasmanian Resource Planning & Development Commission (TRPDC) assessment has been replaced by a much less rigorous but government-sanctioned, fast-track process.

“This is not acceptable for an industrial development of international magnitude with possible significant public health consequences,” he said.

The AMA has particular concerns regarding four potential health issues which, when taken together, may constitute unacceptable risk:

- 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 stressed that the AMA is not opposed as a matter of principle to large-scale industrial development in Tasmania.

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