



MEDIA RELEASE

HEALTH ISSUES UNTOUCHED - PULP MILL STILL NOT SUPPORTED

AMA Tasmania advised in a position statement on 25th September 2006 that it would not support the proposed Tamar Valley pulp mill due to serious health omissions and gaps in the integrated impact statement. AMA Tasmania has supported the independent RPDC assessment process to publicly attend to and resolve our identified omissions and gaps. The health related gaps identified by AMA Tasmania in September have not been answered. Any expedient compromise on health standards is completely unacceptable.

Dr Aizen, President of AMA Tasmania said, "AMA Tasmania is the only independent organization that addresses key public health issues which improve the health of the Tasmanian community. AMA Tasmania expresses further concerns about the continuing absence of data related to the very fine particle pollution called PM2.5 in pollution and validated airflow modeling in the Tamar Valley".

AMA Tasmania has had its world class medical specialists review the pulp mill data. This review took many hundreds of hours of research and resulted in our September position statement.

Dr Aizen said, "Under the proposed government process newly appointed medical specialists are not going to be able to contradict the AMA's position statement. The adverse health consequences of pollution are well known. AMA Tasmania remains very concerned that the health of the residents of the Tamar Valley will be put at risk."

In light of the AMA position statement and ongoing concerns the AMA notes that accountability for any increase in adverse health outcomes will therefore rest with all those in leadership roles.

For further comment Dr Michael Aizen can be contacted on 0408 339 351