



**Issue 48**

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**Gunns Announces Alliance Partners**

On July 3, Gunns Limited announced without much fanfare that it had appointed John Holland Pty Ltd and Macmahon Contractors to help with the construction of the proposed Bell Bay pulp mill should the project receive approval.

In the announcement to the Stock Exchange, Gunns Executive Chairman John Gay said John Holland and Macmahon Contractors would review the design work over the next six months and establish a detailed target cost estimate for the project.

Although its head office is located in Sydney, John Holland has well established links with Tasmania having completed several major projects here including McGees Bridge at Midway Point in the south of the State.

It also established a state office near Hobart Airport four years ago, after securing a partnership arrangement with Forestry Tasmania for the development of the Southwood/Newood integrated timber processing facility in the Huon.

Gunns also announced that it expected to lodge the Integrated Impact Statement with the Tasmanian Resource Planning and Development Commission by the end of the month.

In media interviews, John Holland has reiterated Gunns' previously announced intention to employ Tasmanians where possible during the construction phase and to provide opportunities for local business to supply goods and services to the project.

If approved, the on site workforce is expected to grow to 2500 people during the peak construction phase with a heavy reliance on skilled trades.

Given that Tasmania is currently enjoying strong employment growth, but experiencing skills shortages across some trades, it is expected that some of the workforce will need to be drawn from interstate.



The Pulp Mill Task Force is aware that several Tasmanian firms have formed their own alliances to compete for work on the project.

Of course, there is still no guarantee the project will proceed. Gunns estimates the planning approval process will take up to 12 months.

### **New Report**

Those who have been following the debate over the environmental impacts of the Valdivia mill in Chile might be interested to read a new report posted on the Resource Planning and Development Commission's website.

Go to :  
[http://www.rpdc.tas.gov.au/projects\\_state\\_signif/pulp\\_mill/pm\\_docs/pm\\_reports\\_publications.htm](http://www.rpdc.tas.gov.au/projects_state_signif/pulp_mill/pm_docs/pm_reports_publications.htm)

The Pulp Mill Task Force email address is: [info@pulpmill.tas.gov.au](mailto:info@pulpmill.tas.gov.au)