

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 16 April 2009

Gunns20 defendants question timing of settlement offer

Remaining defendants in the Gunns20 case will reject an offer by Gunns Ltd to settle the case. Gunns made the offer on 3 April 2009. Accepting the offer would require defendants to pay Gunns' legal costs and to give extensive undertakings restricting their activities and movements in Tasmania.

The timing of the offer has been questioned given the recent increase in speculation about Gunns' proposed pulp mill. In recent days there has been media speculation Gunns will make an announcement on the future of the mill including the date to commence construction.

Adam Burling (Defendant#6)

"This current offer from Gunns is offensive. After 4 and a half years of being dragged through court, Gunns now wants us to pay a bucket of money and give up our right to protest. Forget it," said Adam Burling

"If anyone wanted proof that Gunns were interested in more than money when they started this case, this offer is the proof. The restrictions that Gunns want to place on us is nothing less than an attack on our freedom of speech," said Mr Burling

Louise Morris (Defendant#8):

"It's no accident, in my opinion, that Gunns are trying to curtail my ability to protest at the same time as media speculation on the construction of the pulp mill in Tasmania increases.

In any case I have no alternative but to reject this sham of an offer. They must know I can't afford to pay their legal costs which would be in the hundreds of thousands, possibly millions of dollars. Also they are asking me to undertake not to go to large tracts of Tasmania, including public land without their consent. It's a joke of an offer and if this is the best they can do its looks like we're off to trial," said Ms Morris.

- **Adam Burling (in Hobart) is available for comment on 0407 541 335**
- **Louise Morris (in Melbourne) is available for comment on 0408 906 310**

For more information on the Gunns20 case, contact:

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