

# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 12 October 2009

## DR FRANK NICKLASON WELCOMES END TO GUNNS LAWSUIT!

### CLAIMS OF MISINFORMATION REJECTED!

On 13 December 2004 Dr Nicklason along with 19 others was sued by Gunns in the now infamous “Gunns20” case. Gunns sought \$250,000.00 in damages from Dr Nicklason plus costs for comments he made and a conspiracy he was supposed to be part of too damage Gunns.

The case was dropped in April 2007. Gunns were ordered to pay costs in the order of \$150,000.00 during their failed attempt to sue Dr Nicklason as part of the Gunns20. Two days later Gunns sued again, this time for defamation in relation to the same comments.

That case was settled today. Dr Nicklason has not agreed to pay any money to Gunns for damages or any of their legal fees. Dr Nicklason agreed to send a letter to Gunns in relation to the comments.

Gunns’ media release claims the result should reassure Tasmanians about health risks associated with woodchips and that Gunns is often subject to serious misinformation about its operations. Dr Nicklason said in response:

*“The letter I sent apologizes for making the statement in relation to health risks associated with the woodchip piles only because I accept I should have approached the company with my concerns directly before going public. However, the public health concerns which motivated my action then, remain a concern for me.”*

*“I fail to see how this can provide reassurance as Gunns seem to be claiming. This issue requires further investigation in my view. I also emphatically reject the implication that I was spreading misinformation.”*

#### **Contacts:**

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*Friends of Forests and Free Speech raises funds to cover legal fees and associated expenses of defendants to the case as well as giving logistical, administrative and para-legal support to defendants. FOFFS also aims to raise public awareness about the importance, to a healthy and vibrant democracy, of citizens engaging in public participation without fear of litigation.*