



National Association of
Forest Industries



Forest Industries Association
of Tasmania

Media Release

10 March 2011

Forest industry welcomes Federal pulp mill approval

The forest industry has welcomed the Federal Environment Minister's approval of the three remaining modules of the Tasmanian Pulp Mill environmental impact management plan.

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) and Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT) said the last external approval requirement for the project has been cleared and it is time for financing to be finalised and construction to commence.

NAFI Chief Executive Allan Hansard said the project will be a watershed for investment in the Australian forest industry and an important value adding facility.

"NAFI strongly supports further value-adding and downstream processing of our domestic forest resources," he said.

"Australia now has a chance to reduce its \$2billion trade deficit in forest and wood products.

"It is also a great achievement that Gunns Limited has met the world's toughest environmental standards to move forward on this project."

FIAT Chief Executive Terry Edwards said it was a great opportunity for economic development in Tasmania

"The economic and employment benefits of this project will be enormous. It also sends a clear signal that Tasmania is open for investment and a place to do business," he said.

[ENDS]

Media contact:

Greg Haraldson, NAFI Communications Manager

0419 428 646

(02) 6285 3833

greg.haraldson@nafi.com.au