



## Media Release

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### Forest industry and timber communities welcome plantation fibre announcement for Bell Bay pulp mill

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) and Timber Communities Australia (TCA) welcome the announcement today to the Australian Stock Exchange by Gunns Limited that the Bell Bay pulp mill will begin operation with 100 per cent plantation resources, following Gunns securing access to the Great Southern timber resource.

The appointment of Gunns as Responsible Entity for nine former Great Southern timber managed investment schemes will secure plantation fibre supply for the Bell Bay pulp mill as well as restore confidence and stability for investors and the forest industry.

“Australia’s forest industry is well positioned to take advantage of the increase in demand for forest products as the world emerges from financial recession. The announcement by Gunns will help address our \$2 billion trade deficit in forest products through domestic value adding to our plantation resources”, said NAFI CEO Allan Hansard.

The Bell Bay pulp mill will generate significant economic benefit for Australia and provide over 1500 ongoing jobs.

“The Bell Bay pulp mill will be of great benefit to regional communities in both Tasmania and the Australian mainland through their involvement in the growing, transport and processing of wood resources for the facility’ said TCA CEO Jim Adams.

NAFI and TCA welcome the announcement by Gunns and look forward to the growing expansion of the forest industry as Australia’s only renewable, carbon positive industry that can also provide significant economic and community benefits for the nation.

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