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Burnie Council launches pulp mill push

By SEAN FORD

April 16, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

A NORTH-WEST council wants to talk pulp mill with the state government.

Burnie aldermen last night backed a motion from Alderman Jim Altimira to invite the government to meet the council and "re- acquaint themselves with the benefits of the Hampshire site as an alternative to the Tamar site for a pulp mill". Timber giant Gunns Limited chose Long Reach, on the Tamar River, over Hampshire for a big pulp mill proposal.

Gunns collapsed without getting the mill built.

Certain Gunns assets including mill permits are up for sale, but it is not clear whether anyone is seriously interested in building a Tamar mill.

Alderman Altimira argued the government wanted new jobs, Burnie had high unemployment and there would be little opposition to a Hampshire mill compared to a Tamar Valley mill.

The Tamar Valley proposal drew widespread opposition.

It is expected the council will invite Resources Minister Paul Harriss and, due to a suggestion by Mayor Steve Kons, Gunns receiver- manager KordaMentha and any interested parties.

Hampshire is south of Burnie.

The council will also seek a meeting with Events Tasmania which may be a step towards a major new sports or arts-related event in the region.

Aldermen supported Alderman Anita Dow's motion to seek a meeting with new Events Tasmania chief executive Adam Sproule.

She argued there was an opportunity for the region, and particularly Burnie with its sports and arts focus, to consider developing another key Tasmanian event. 