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February 22 2019 - 2:30PM

### Bell Bay Pulp Mill timeline

## 2003

In June, Gunns executive chairman John Gay and then Deputy Premier Paul Lennon have dinner in Hobart where the idea of a pulp mill is discussed.

In August, Mr Lennon views pulp mills in Finland and Sweden with Mr Gay.

## 2005

In February, Gunns nominates Bell Bay as its preferred site for the mill due to proximity to the port and cheaper transport costs.

In December, the first of several anti-pulp mill rallies held in Launceston's Albert Hall with an estimated 2500 people voicing their concerns about the project.

## 2006

In July, Gunns releases its draft Integrated Impact Statement and says the pulp mill will not pollute, smell or consume old-growth forest.

In July, about 400 organisations and individuals express an opinion on the pulp mill guidelines to the RPDC before submissions close.

In December, RPDC delays public hearings saying Gunns' original Integrated Impact Statement is incomplete.

## 2007

In February, new RPDC chairman retired judge Christopher Wright blames Gunns for most of the delays in the assessment process and says there will be no decision until November.

In March, Gunns pulls out of the RPDC process saying the timeline is commercially unacceptable.

Mr Lennon introduces legislation that will see the mill assessed by a consultant and Parliament voting on whether to approve it, all before August 31.

Parliament passes the alternative assessment process bill.

In June, more than 10,000 people gather at City Park then march through the streets in protest at the mill approval process.

The Wilderness Society launches a federal court challenge against the federal assessment of the mill saying it is flawed.

In October 2007, former Federal Environment and Water Resources Minister Malcolm Turnbull gives Commonwealth approval for the mill.

## 2008

In February, state and Federal governments issue permits for pulp mill site works to start.

In March, construction was announced to begin in August.

In April, Deputy Premier [Steve Kons resigns for misleading parliament](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/470220/kons-too-busy-to-fight-complaint/).

Mr Kons denied in parliament that he approved the appointment of Simon Cooper as a new magistrate, however a signed document confirming the decision was found shredded in a rubbish bin outside his office in Burnie.

It was believed Mr Kons made the choice as Mr Cooper was a critic of the pulp mill.

In June, Gunns asks the government to extend the deadline for building by five months.

Forestry Tasmania extends its wood supply agreements for the mill, to give Gunns until November 30 to start building.

In September, Gunns officially seeks an extension to the Federal Government's deadline for Commonwealth approval.

In November, the state government moves to extend the permit for the pulp mill until August 30, 2011.

## 2009

In January, Federal Government approves all but three of the operating modules for the pulp mill.

Environment Minister Peter Garrett gives Gunns until March, 2011 to complete hydrodynamic modelling on effluent outfall in Bass Strait.

In November, the state government moves to extend the permit for the pulp mill until August 30, 2011.

## 2010

In January, Gunns' announces the mill, now valued at $2.6 billion, would begin operation with 100 per cent plantation timber.

In November, Gunns managing director Greg L'Estrange tells the annual meeting in Launceston that trading conditions are the toughest in the company's history but that funding for the pulp mill is going through due diligence.

## 2011

Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke gives approval for the pulp mill.

In March 2011, Greens Senator Christine Milne said the pulp mill [was not financially viable](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/471535/pulp-mill-not-viable-milne/).

A report by Naomi Edwards raised concerns over construction costs, fibre costs, and foreign exchange impacts.

Senator Milne said the mill was "a disaster of a proposal" that was "totally unsuitable" for the Tamar Valley.

In August 2011, the first stage of the project begins.

The earthworks at the site saw 750,000 cubic metres of earth and rock excavated. The project cost $20 million.

## 2012

The [first stage is completed in April 2012](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/85155/gunns-completes-20m-first-stage-of-pulp-mill/).

In June, shareholders launch a class-action against Gunns

In August, Gunns reports a net loss of more than $900 million.

In September, Gunns announces to ASX that it will enter voluntary administration.

## 2013

In August, Mr Gay is [convicted for insider trading](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/4495574/the-rise-and-fall-of-gunns/).

## 2014

In January, [financial analyst Tony Gray](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/2015130/growing-strength-seen-in-appeal-of-pulp-mill/) says if someone took on the project, they would have a better chance of turning a profit than Gunns.

A change to the 2007 pulp mill act is requested by Gunns receiver KordaMentha to [improve the chances of selling the permit](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/2052346/greens-fail-to-stop-vote-on-pulp-mill-bill/).

**SEE ALSO:** [Parliament to quash pulp mill legal challenge](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/2023742/parliament-to-quash-pulp-mill-legal-challenge/)

## 2017

In September, the Tasmanian Greens [table a bill to bury the mill](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/4922340/bill-to-repeal-pulp-mill-tabled/).

The Pulp Mill Assessment Repeal Bill moves to repeal the Pulp Mill Assessment Act 2007 and revoke not only the pulp mill permit, but also any related provisions and approvals.

In September, Gunns' receiver KordaMentha [surrenders its pulp mill permit](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/5028999/the-pulp-mill-is-over-state-growth-minister-peter-gutwein/).

## 2019

In February, the former pulp mill site is [on the market](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/5916629/tamar-valley-pulp-mill-site-for-sale/).

**SEE ALSO:** [The Gunns timeline](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/357290/the-gunns-timeline/)