
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	2
1.1. The Proponent	2
1.2. History of the Proposal	3
1.3. Need and Justification for the Development.....	3
1.3.1. <i>Need for the Development and Project Benefits</i>	5
1.3.2. <i>Consequences of Not Proceeding with the Development</i>	6
1.4. Project Timeframes and Development Linkages	7
1.5. Required Approvals.....	8
1.6. Alternative Site Options Investigated	9
1.7. Public & Stakeholder Consultation.....	13
1.7.1. <i>Consultation Overview</i>	13
1.7.2. <i>Phase 1 Information on Project Concept</i>	13
1.7.3. <i>Phase 2 Community Consultation (Focus Groups and Advisory Groups)</i>	16
1.7.4. <i>Regional Advisory Group</i>	19
1.7.5. <i>Phase 3 Statutory Consultation process</i>	20
1.8. Relevant Legislation, Regulations, Codes and Policies	21
1.9. Structure of this Report.....	22

TABLES

Table 1 Required Approvals	8
Table 2 Summary of Information Sessions and Parties Consulted.....	14
Table 3 Summary of Initial Community Consultation	16
Table 4 Public Consultation Strategy.....	17

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Proponent

Forestry Tasmania (FT) is a government business enterprise owned by the State of Tasmania. It is recognised as an innovative forest manager. Its forest operations are conducted in a sustainable manner and are covered by an independently administered *Forest Practices Code 2000* developed under the *Tasmanian Forest Practices Act 1985*. FT manages 1.5 million hectares of land applying nearly 80 years of continuous forest management knowledge.

The Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) has established a framework within which the concept of sustainable management of multiple use forests can be advanced. The establishment of more intensive forest management practices and new plantations forms the basis for an internationally competitive forest products manufacturing sector.

FT is committed to innovative and sustainable work practices, differentiating itself from other timber producers in terms of wood quality and the silviculture of intensive forest management. FT is committed to the improvement of environmental management of its activities and has reflected this in its environmental policy (Appendix B).

Work in progress includes:

- Introducing an externally certified, auditable Environmental Management System complying with ISO 14001;
- Undertaking regular internal and external reviews of environmental performance;
- Implementing silvicultural regimes to improve physical timber properties;
- Competitive work practice benchmarking;
- Continuing to implement environmental management plans for new developments; and
- Continuing research and development.

Roles and Responsibilities

FT intends to lease the whole Wood Centre site to an infrastructure company (Site Manager). The Site Manager will undertake overall development of the site. The Site Manager's responsibilities will include the establishment and ongoing management of

common use services such as roads, stormwater, wastewater and process/potable water supply. Each processing facility on the site is expected to have an individual operator who will hold a sub-lease with the Site Manager and be responsible for meeting the environmental permit conditions for their respective leases.

1.2. History of the Proposal

Historically, wood processing infrastructure in Southern Tasmania was sited close to the timber resources used. However, the closure of the Australian Paper Mills (APM) pulp mill in the early 1990s at Port Huon has resulted in the Southern Forest resource being transported long distances to be processed, with consequential lower returns to FT and reduced local socio-economic benefits.

Establishment of the Wood Centre development will provide potentially greater returns to the southern region from its timber resources and the economies of scale to sustain a modern, competitive wood processing sector.

Ryan (1999) in *A review of log segregation and utilisation in Tasmania* indicated that there were opportunities within the Southern Forests for improved timber management and value adding by using a merchandising yard concept.

As landowner and custodian of the forestry resource to be utilised by this development, FT wishes to promote the expansion and diversification of forest-based industries. FT has prospective proponents considering the development of various operations that comprise the Wood Centre. However, in order to market the development more effectively it wishes to have approvals finalised for the operations that are proposed.

The Southern Forests link road was built to facilitate economic transport of logs between the Huon and Derwent Valleys. This road development led to the investigation of a number of suitable sites for establishing the Wood Centre.

1.3. Need and Justification for the Development

The Wood Centre Development is aimed at producing an investment ready timber production site that will attract private sector investment to develop innovative timber processing in Southern Tasmania. The project involves centralised, local value-added processing in the Huon District State forest. Value-added hardwood products are manufactured on a central site within the forests allowing for local employment opportunities and improved transport efficiencies due to the hardwood resource being hauled to a site within the local region as opposed to more distant locations outside of the Huon District. The project will introduce the first modern rotary peeled veneer facility to the state, which will make a significant contribution in extracting up to 25%

solid timber product from the existing pulpwood stream with no increase in harvesting intensity or area.

Currently, post harvest forest residue in the form of tree crowns, branches and non-commercial forest produce is burnt to expose mineral soils to form a seed bed. The proposed power station will use some of this forest residue as fuel wood to produce power from a renewable resource for the site as well as the local community. The resultant emissions traditionally associated with post harvest re-establishment burns will be reduced. The removal of forest residues lowers the fuel load within the coupe thus greatly reducing burn duration and levels of smoke emission.

The forest products manufacturing base in Tasmania currently comprises:

- Pulp and/or paper mills at Boyer, Wesley Vale and Burnie;
- A medium density fibreboard mill at Bell Bay;
- Wood fibre mills at Burnie, Hampshire, Waverley, Bell Bay, Long Reach and Triabunna; and
- A number of sawmills and veneer mills ranging in productive capacity from <2,000 m³ per year to >100,000 m³ per year.

An internationally competitive wood processing sector is vital to the future prosperity of the forest industry in Tasmania. In 1998, the Deputy Premier launched the Forestry Growth Plan that mapped out a 10 year process for development of the forest industry in Tasmania. The process is underpinned by three key drivers:

- Establishment of a world-scale forest resource;
- Encouraging world-scale processing operations; and
- Ensuring suitable development sites for processing operations are “investment ready”.

This development contributes to progressing the second and third of these key drivers. Investment is sensitive both to total lead times before production begins and project risk due to unknowns that might be encountered in the planning stages. By having sites that are “investment ready”, a significant contribution to enhancing investment confidence is achieved (Tony d’Alessandro pers. com., 2000).

The Wood Centre will create local employment opportunities, contributing 200-250 jobs and approximately \$40 million directly to the Tasmanian economy.

Total project lead times are reduced by having established zoning and permit conditions for the site progressed through the State approvals processes. These processes traditionally take between 9 and 12 months. Further, by establishing performance parameters for the developments in advance, investors can take environmental management issues into consideration during the project feasibility studies with more certainty.

The State forests within the Huon District which, the development will progress, currently has a hardwood resource that is being managed to contribute to a world-scale wood resource in the State. But, the District, does not have any “investment ready” sites for world-scale timber processing. Without such development logs will continue to be exported in raw form reducing benefits to the Tasmanian economy.

1.3.1. Need for the Development and Project Benefits

As noted in Section 1.2 above, the establishment of the Wood Centre will provide potentially greater returns to the Southern Region from its timber resources and the economies of scale to sustain a modern, competitive wood processing sector. Such returns and economies of scale will arise through a re-engineering of the current timber supply chain so that greater value recovery is realised and better outcomes overall can be achieved. These outcomes relate to increased wood recovery, greater operational safety, improved product quality and transport efficiencies.

The objectives of this project are:

- To improve overall quality and value-adding capability in log manufacturing by enabling better grading and preparation decisions, more control of log presentation and a greater number of log specifications;
- To reduce variability of raw material to producers of high grade timber products;
- To provide more flexibility in lead time for purchase and delivery of logs to sawmillers, thereby reducing their stock holding overheads;
- To enhance community amenity by increasing processing within forest boundaries and reduced road cartage through built-up areas;
- To improve the use of forest residue by producing sustainable and renewable electricity thereby reducing emissions.
- To introduce world-scale rotary peeled veneer product manufacturing;
- To improve the efficiency of the total transport effort; and

- To increase overall financial returns by improving recovery of higher grade materials and by reducing overall cartage costs.

Further, the proposed development represents a significant opportunity for Tasmania to achieve world-scale timber processing operations.

The development of the Wood Centre also has the ability to increase the reliability of power supply south of Huonville.

The most striking point of this project is that all these potential benefits and operational efficiencies can be realised while maintaining sustainable timber harvesting practices in compliance with the RFA. The Wood Centre Development focuses on maximising overall returns and achieving greater resource recovery from areas harvested in the Southern Forests. The key forest resources used by the project are regrowth trees, and over time an increase in plantation hardwood will be processed.

It is also recognised that existing wood processing industries will progressively become less competitive as wood quality changes in the move from mature to regrowth and plantation hardwood, proposed to occur in the Forests and Forest Industry Strategy 1990.

Forest activities, in compliance with the Forests and Forest Industry Strategy are increasingly moving to harvest younger wood. The plantation strategy being undertaken as part of the Forestry Growth Plan 1998 is seeking to produce more plantation wood that is suited to re-engineered timber products rather than pulpwood. The Wood Centre provides a focus for increasing the capability of industries to process regrowth and plantation wood. The principal value-adding industries on the site will use regrowth wood and once it becomes available hardwood plantation wood exclusively.

1.3.2. Consequences of Not Proceeding with the Development

If the proposed project were not to progress, a number of potential outcomes may not be achieved. The most significant of which are those defined as the project objectives listed above.

The project not proceeding will represent a foregone opportunity to achieve an internationally competitive wood processing sector and increased export of wood in raw material forms.

The Wood Centre Development also has the potential to deliver a range of socio-economic benefits. Of greatest significance are the estimated 200 jobs that will be created during the construction phase, and a similar number of full-time jobs estimated to be generated and sustained post construction. This represents an

\$8.1 million contribution to the economy (in wages) each year. In addition, the infrastructure being developed to support the site will also be available to service regional development in the area.

The development of the Wood Centre further offers the opportunity to redirect current traffic flows, thereby reducing the number of log trucks passing through major population centres. Maintenance costs to existing public roads will in turn be reduced with more of the log traffic restricted to within the forest.

The project not proceeding will represent a foregone opportunity to capitalise on the potential benefits of modifying existing routes and traffic flows.

By constructing processing facilities closer to the forests, most of the wood moving away from the site will be transported in enclosed vehicles thus improving the transport safety of forest produce. By not developing the project, the status quo remains unchanged and there will be no safety benefit derived from enclosed forest produce transport.

Refer also to Section 2 for further discussion of potential socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development.

1.4. Project Timeframes and Development Linkages

The project is scheduled to commence as soon as development approval is achieved. FT has development agreements with proponents for all of the key components outlined in this DPEMP. The feasibility studies for all of these developments are well underway.

It is estimated that a decision will be made on this application by early in 2002. The development phase, if approvals are achieved, will take approximately 15 months.

As indicated above, proponents for all aspects of the development have been identified. But, the minimum configuration of industries that need to be established on the site to make the Wood Centre economic include the rotary peel veneer mill, the merchandising yard and a wood fibre mill.

The timing of the power station will be subject to factors external to the project which impact on the overall economics of the power station development. It is hoped these will be resolved in time for the power station to be constructed within the 15 month first stage construction.

Future stages of construction (separate approvals processes) and their approximate timings are:

- Additional sawmills relocating 1-5 years

- Plywood mill or Laminated Veneer Lumber Mill 3 years
- Medium Density Fibreboard Mill 7 to 10 years
- Oriented Strand Board Mill 10 years

1.5. Required Approvals

Approvals required prior to the commissioning of the Wood Centre are identified in the following table along with their approval status. Some licences will only be applied for by the individual facilities of the Wood Centre.

Table 1 Required Approvals

Approval	Status
Water Licence	Application made
Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act	Minister for Environment (Comm) determination 30 June 2001 no controlled actions
Planning Permit from Huon Valley Council	Application with DPEMP
Plant Item Registration	Application to be lodged by Facility Managers
Certificate of Competency	Application to be lodged by Facility Managers
Verification / Certification of Weights, Measures, Weighing and Measuring Instruments	Application to be lodged by Site Wide Manager
Exemption Certificate Loading Zone	Application to be lodged by Site Wide Manager
Building Permit	Application to be lodged by Site Wide Manager and Facility Managers
Certificate of Occupancy	Application to be lodged by Site Wide Manager and Facility Managers
Licence to keep Dangerous Goods	Application to be lodged by Site Wide Manager and Facility Managers
Plan Approval of Premise Construction or Alteration for Dangerous Goods	Application to be lodged by Site Wide Manager and Facility Managers
Licence to Construct, Erect or Alter any Sign or Advertising Structure	Application to be lodged by Site Wide Manager and Facility Managers
Plant Item Registration of Schedule 7 Plant (including boilers and pressure vessels)	Application to be lodged by Facility Managers.
Plumbing Connection Permit from Huon Valley Council	Application to be lodged by Facility Managers.

1.6. Alternative Site Options Investigated

Various sites were inspected between Geeveston and Karanja, with underlying assumptions being that the site should be located to permit 24 hour operation as well as the capacity to allow more efficient configuration of log loads.

The sites considered were:

- Boyer (Norske Skog Mill);
- Karanja;
- Plenty and Puzzle River Junction;
- Russell Road;
- Denison/Weld Road Junction;
- North bank Huon River; and
- Former APM site at Port Huon.

An initial assessment of the above sites yielded the following findings:

- The Karanja site was too remote from the Huon District to allow economic cartage of timber to the site;
- The Denison/Weld Road site could not access a sufficient amount of water to provide adequate capacity for the envisaged integration of other industrial activities on site; and
- The APM site at Port Huon did not have sufficient flat land and was in private ownership.

Site Selection Criteria

The remaining four sites were then evaluated against an extensive set of selection criteria that included:

- Present zoning status of the site.
- Surrounding land use and compatibility with existing activities.
- Availability of infrastructure for:
 - Power supply;

-
- Water supply;
 - Sewer and domestic wastewater; and
 - Fire services.
 - Land availability for proposed site (approximately 90 ha).
 - Land suitability in terms of:
 - Topography;
 - Geology/soils;
 - Site history/contamination; and
 - Natural hazards.
 - Water issues:
 - Impacts on surface water and groundwater quality;
 - Proximity to water courses; and
 - Stormwater/wastewater management strategies required.
 - Other environmental issues:
 - Visibility of the site and associated potential landscaping requirements to minimise visual impact;
 - Solid waste management;
 - Quantification and impact of air and noise emissions;
 - Proximity of residences to the site and existing buffers;
 - Potential flora and fauna disturbance; and
 - Cultural heritage and features of archaeological significance.
 - Off-site impacts:
 - Material flow to the site and associated traffic effects;
 - Transport of product from the site and available route options (Chapter 4); and
-

- Employment catchment regions, commute distances and access routes most likely to be used.

Site Assessment Findings

A brief description of each of the four sites compiled during the assessment of the above criteria is presented below.

Boyer Site

The Wood Centre was seen as being integrated with the Norske Skog Boyer Mill. The proposed processes are already permitted uses undertaken by Norske Skog.

The site is privately owned and has paper making and softwood chipping facilities. Gunns Veneer Mill is located in close proximity.

The site slopes towards the Derwent River like all of the surrounding land. A residential area is located opposite the site on the south bank of the river. However, there are adequate buffers in the form of trees and hills to the east and west.

Minor infrastructural development would be required to provide sufficient, reliable power and water supply and to ensure the effective processing of sewer/domestic wastewater.

However, the amount of land required is not available. The total distance that unprocessed wood has to be carted is significantly higher than other available sites.

Plenty and Puzzle River Junction Site

Although an exact final location was not identified, a number of potential sites between the Plenty and Puzzle River confluence were identified as suitable for establishment and development of the Wood Centre.

There are no significant zoning issues expected as the area is remote from residential and other industrial areas. The land uses in the area primarily comprise pine plantations (operated by Norske Skog) and some State forest areas.

Any of the potential sites would be located on land falling towards either the Plenty or Puzzle Rivers. As both of these waterways are classified as Class 1 watercourses, development would need to have a buffer of at least 100 metres from the watercourse.

There is no suitable power supply near the site and no reticulated water available at the site. Infrastructure development enabling the processing of sewer and domestic wastewater would need to be provided, as well as creation of a dam for water supply for fire fighting activities. Water needs for the site could not be reliably met by the

Plenty or Puzzle Rivers. In addition, there was a probability of snow hampering winter operations.

Russell Road Site

Two potential sites were identified at the Russell Road/Denison Road Junction. The first site – on the northern side of the Russell Road – backs onto the Russell River, while the second site – on the southern side of Russell Road – backs onto Denison Road. Both sites are privately owned.

There is no suitable power supply to the site, no reticulated water supply and lack of appropriate facilities/infrastructure for the processing of sewer and domestic wastewater. There are no fire services on site, but water for firefighting could be drawn from the Russell River continuously.

Advice from DPIWE indicated that the Russell River could not meet the site's projected water needs.

While zoning issues have not been investigated, land use in the area is mainly pastoral. Although there are no residences within 1 km of either site, development of the Wood Centre was likely to impact on the essentially rural/residential nature of the area. This was a further consideration in not selecting either of the two sites as preferential options in determining the overall preferred site.

North Bank Huon River Site (above new bridge)

The site is located about 500 metres from the Huon River on an area of flat land about 50 metres above the normal river level. The site does not appear to have any value as productive forestry land due to prevailing soil and vegetation types.

No significant zoning issues are expected as the site is remotely situated with respect to residential and other industrial areas. The nearest house is 6 km away.

An issue of compatibility arises from the potential impact industrial development may have on the aesthetic value and recreational amenity of the Huon River, and the potential for buildings on site to impact on the skyline. But these are manageable through appropriate screening with vegetation.

There is no power supply to the site, no reticulated water supply and lack of appropriate facilities/infrastructure for the processing of sewer and domestic wastewater.

However, an abundant water supply to the site can be obtained from the Huon River. Power can be supplied from the Kermandie Substation.

Overall Preferred Site

Based on assessment of the site selection criteria and subsequent economic modelling for each respective site, FT was able to progress the selection process and identify a preferred location for establishment and development of the Wood Centre, this being the North Bank Huon River Site.

In summary, this location:

- Is more remote from habitation than the Russell Road site and the water supply from the Huon is more reliable than that from the Russell;
- Has in general, the lowest environmental impact of the sites considered;
- Has significantly lower average delivery log costs than other non-Huon sites considered; and
- Is already owned by FT.

1.7. Public & Stakeholder Consultation

1.7.1. Consultation Overview

Consultation to date has engaged Local Government, State Government departments, political representatives, industry groups, community groups and individual companies. Public information sessions and presentations to community and other groups have been made (Table 2).

A three phase approach to consultation is being used;

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Phase 1 | Provision of information to stake holders and community issues identification. |
| Phase 2 | Community participation (advisory group and focus groups) |
| Phase 3 | Statutory approval consultation phase. |

1.7.2. Phase 1 Information on Project Concept

A community consultation strategy has been prepared to cover issues associated with both the site and the required transport links to export facilities and local markets. In line with this strategy, a number of Community Information Days have been held which have provided members of the general community the opportunity to view the project plans and seek information regarding the project. Community groups were

provided with presentations and information. A public consultation report has been compiled by Corporate Communications and is provided in Appendix C.

Information Days have included display panels, project maps and brochures. Members of the community have also been supplied with self-addressed comment forms to complete and submit regarding the project. Input from the public consultation process has been taken into account by project management in the formulation of development strategies. Relevant technical personnel have been on hand at such meetings to answer community questions.

Consultation to Date

Major information sessions and community groups consulted to date and other groups/businesses that have been contacted are detailed in Table 2. The following groups/businesses have advised that no briefing is required:

- Apple & Pear Growers Association
- Grove Store
- Leslie Vale Progress Association
- Huon Protection Group

Table 2 Summary of Information Sessions and Parties Consulted

Information Sessions and Community Groups Consulted	Other Groups/Businesses That Have Been Contacted
Sandfly Community Information Day (30/9/00)	Huon Valley Mushrooms
Judbury Information Session (7/10/00)	Huonville Apex Club
Ranelagh Information Session (7/10/00)	Rotary Club of Huonville
Huonville Information Session (8/10/00)	Rotary Club of D'Entrecasteaux
Margate Information Session (9/10/00)	Glen Huon Progress Association
North-West Bay Concerned Citizens meeting (10/10/00)	Howden Progress Association
Huon Opportunities Group (19/10/00)	Coningham Progress Association
Cygnets RSL (20/10/00)	Snug Progress Association
Geeveston Residents Information Group (21/10/00)	Kingborough Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Huon Kingborough Tourism Operators (25/10/00)	Huon FM
Huon Valley Land Care Group (31/10/00)	Margate businesses Fuglsang Shipbuilders, Hazells, and fish processors
Judbury Residents session (6/11/00)	NW Bay River Management Committee

Information Sessions and Community Groups Consulted	Other Groups/Businesses That Have Been Contacted
Dover Residents session (14/11/00)	Huon Agribusiness and Landcare Group – Allison Clark
Huonville Show (18/11/00)	Kingborough Landcare and Coastcare Groups
Southwood Supporters Group – Inaugural Meeting (20/11/2000)	Glen Huon Primary School (parents and teachers)
Geeveston Residents’ Information Session (28/11/2000)	Huon Senior Citizens
North West Bay Progress Association (6/12/2000)	Margate Christian Church/Childcare
Snug/Coningham Residents’ Information Session (11/12/2000)	Margate Primary
Howden Residents’ Information Session (13/12/2000)	Country Women’s Association of Margate
Cygnets Residents’ Information Session (12/12/2000)	Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council
Kingston Probus Club (29/12/2000)	

A project web site has been established at www.southwoodresources.com.au. In addition, FT began public tours of the proposed site in January 2001.

Outcomes of Phase 1

Approximately 5000 comment forms were distributed during information sessions in both Kingborough and Huon Valley Municipalities. The responses to date are as follows:

- 110 comment forms were received back from Huon Valley Municipality residents;
- 13 emails were received on the project. - 10 opposing, 2 supportive, 1 neutral;
- 4 letters - 2 supportive, 2 opposing;
- 4 Ministerials from people who had not provided other written communications; and
- 137 phone calls were received with approximately equal numbers in support and opposing the project.

Table 3 summarises the key issues and nature of written comments.

Many of the environmental comments were related to forest management issues but several included concerns about water pollution and emissions from the power station.

Comments on community impacts related to issues such as lifestyle, noise and visual amenity from the road transport component.

To the end of April 2001, over 500 visitors toured the site by way of bus tours.

Table 3 Summary of Initial Community Consultation

Consultation Issue	Supportive	Opposed	Neutral
Community Impact	2	14	2
Consultation	2	11	2
Contact (request to be on a mailing list)	0	0	2
Economic	1	2	3
Environment (includes forest management protest)	0	22	2
Infrastructure	4	0	0
Opposition - Unspecified	0	4	0
Rate Options	7	1	1
Welcome the project - Supportive	48	0	0
Transport	0	0	1
Total	64	54	13

Public concern with the proposal, resulted in some protest rallies in Hobart.

1.7.3. Phase 2 Community Consultation (Focus Groups and Advisory Groups)

As part of its commitment to the public consultation process, FT has engaged the services of a social research consultant. The consultant, Jean Grosse, has conducted a series of focus group sessions in order to facilitate the objectives listed below:

- To gather the perceptions of community attitudes and aspirations from a range of people from Geeveston, Huonville, Judbury, Glen Huon and Ranelagh; and
- To analyse and report on the focus group findings. Provide feedback to the Southwood Community Advisory Group (SCAG) (see 1.7.4) and to jointly brief the SCAG on the road options and issues in conjunction with FT and the Huon Valley Council.

The strategy pursued to achieve these objectives is outlined in Table 4.

Table 4 Public Consultation Strategy

Method	People Involved	Issues	Outcomes	Date of Consultation
(1) Focus Groups (four) in the Huon Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of people from Geeveston, Huonville, Judbury, Glen Huon and Ranelagh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community aspirations – lifestyle, fears, jobs, priorities; knowledge about and attitude towards project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community reassurance that their voice is heard. 	Dec 3 - 17 2000
(2) Seminar briefing of SCAG – focus group report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCAG members, FT and HVC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community priorities 		Jan-Feb 2001
(3) Road option workshops with target groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who live near and/or use the roads in question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred route for transport: North Huon Road vs Glen Huon Road & Lollara Road vs Glen Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of core community priorities. 	Mar 2001
(4) Selected road option workshops with target groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three groups of residents who live on the selected transport route. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable mitigating factors for residents affected by choice of road – safety and amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage acceptance of the transport changes in the area. 	July - August 2001

In focus groups conducted in the Huon Valley (Huonville, Geeveston, Franklin, Judbury) in December 2000 (EES Enterprises), relating to the Wood Centre proposal, participants:

- “Expressed fear and uncertainty about changes the project might bring to the valley but also revealed a yearning for an exciting “something” which could lift the depressed spirit of the valley;

-
- Felt cautious about trusting outsiders with “their” valley but were prepared to work in partnership with proponents of the wood centre if the partnership arrangements had continual and genuine ‘local involvement and input’
 - expressed pride in the Valley’s history of achievements in timber and fruit growing.”

The **key findings** were:

- respondents “insisted that the Huon was where they wanted to live,” but the valley “is not what it used to be.” Feelings of nostalgia for the days of prosperity, jobs aplenty, local services such as banks and transport and a resignation that those days were gone forever.”
- a desire for the project to provide skills and job training, coupled with concerns to keep their children in school to completion
- the project must not threaten the perceived clean, green and natural beauty values of the valley
- a substantial amount of apprehension based on misinformation and a genuine desire for more and continuing information, particularly at the level of “what it would mean in everyday life” and “what sort of jobs would there be for us.”
- specific community amenity and information issues identified in the public information process were confirmed at a local level.

The **response** by FT has involved:

- Forestry Tasmania and EMPCA introduced a new opportunity for public input, additional to the statutory planning process, with the release of the Draft Environmental Management Guidelines for public scoping, on 13 January 2001. (comment period close: 2 Feb 2001).
- a full-time Community Liaison Officer was appointed to the Huon District to assist with public information at the regional level and the provision of public information relating to issues raised by the community will be ongoing.
- free public information bus tours of the site and forest were advertised in the press, to date over 500 people have visited the site on a bus tour.
- a public information campaign with press ads and features on the main concerns – wood-fired power generation, rotary peeling, environmental management of the site – were arranged with THE MERCURY and THE HUON NEWS

-
- community amenity issues, particularly road transport (route options, noise, safety etc) have been referred to specialists to survey and review with the respective residents.

The workshop recommended use of North Huon Road as preferable to Glen Huon Road but did not resolve a route through Ranelagh.

A follow up workshop with the participants was conducted to complete the work. The route through Ranelagh was agreed by extending North Huon Road to Ranelagh Street and then using Marguerite Street and Lollara Road to the Huon Highway.

FT engaged management consultants, Global Value Management Pty. Ltd. to conduct workshops with residents to explore the alternatives, which could provide the basis for the ultimate choice of route, and to report these findings to the SCAG.

The objectives of the consultancy were:

- To arrive at a consensus on alternate road route options;
 - North Huon Road or Glen Huon Road; and
 - Lollara Road or Glen Road.
- Explore the possibilities of mitigating factors for the residents affected by the final choice of road route;
- To prepare a written report summarising the findings (refer to Appendix P).

Additional consultation work with affected residents is now being undertaken.

1.7.4. Regional Advisory Group

FT has established a Regional (Huon Valley) Advisory Group known as Southwood Community Advisory Group (SCAG) representing a broad range of business and resident's interests in the Huon Valley. The main purpose of this group is to help with independent advice on the community issues associated with the Wood Centre development.

The Group is chaired by a respected solicitor with local knowledge and a proven capacity for objective facilitation. Membership of the group was established by direct invitation from the chairperson and was designed to be broadly representative of the community. The final decision on membership was made by the group.

The terms of reference for the SCAG are to:

- Review community and business concerns;

-
- Provide FT with advice on regional development impacts;
 - Provide comments on proposed approaches to mitigating community issues;
 - Propose recommendations to enhance community benefits from the proposed development;
 - Assist the resolution of related community concerns;
 - Focus on issues within the Huon Valley and provide comments on related issues in that context; and
 - Assist with the identification of offsets that might be provided where impacts may not be mitigated.

Timely advice has been provided since 15 November 2000 and will continue through 2001, with the key stages being:

- Submission for planning approval (estimated August 2001);
- The associated public comment period (mid-August to mid-November 2001); and
- The environmental management planning period (to December 2001), including public input to the draft DPEMP guidelines.

The SCAG will keep itself informed about community issues and provide advice for input to FT, Local Government and planning authorities, specialists and the project community consultation consultant (Jean Grosse) during the term of her engagement.

1.7.5. Phase 3 Statutory Consultation process

The statutory consultation phase comprises four opportunities for detailed input by the public.

- The draft environmental guidelines and a detailed project description provided as a basis for public input in January 2001.
- This DPEMP written in response to the guidelines will be put on public exhibition for public comment in August 2001.
- It is estimated that, draft permits and the environmental management plan will be publicly exhibited for comment again in November 2001 by the Huon Valley Council.

- It is estimated that, the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) will conduct public hearings into the proposal in December 2001.

During this third phase FT will continue to organise site visits and briefings for interested people to help them learn more about the project and to highlight any additional issues.

1.8. Relevant Legislation, Regulations, Codes and Policies

Legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines that are likely to be relevant for this development include the following:

- Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (and associated Policies and Regulations regarding water pollution, noise, etc);
- Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993;
- Water Management Act 1999;
- Environment Protection and Bio-diversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth);
- Forestry Act 1920
- Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (State);
- Aboriginal Relics Act 1975;
- Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995;
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995
- Dangerous Goods Act 1998;
- Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998;
- Renewable Energy Act 2000 (Commonwealth);
- State Policies and Projects Act 1993; and
- State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997.

Relevant codes, guidelines and agreements include:

- Forest Practices Code 2000;
- Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement 1997;

- Sawmill Environmental Code of Practice 1995;
- Guidelines for Re-use of Wastewater in Tasmania 1994 (Soon to be superseded by Draft Guidelines for the use of Recycled Water in Tasmania 2000);
- Sewage Pumping Station Environmental Guidelines 1999;
- Guidelines for Acceptance of Liquid Wastes to Sewer (DELM 1994)
- Tasmanian Biosolids Reuse Guidelines 1999; and
- Relevant National Environment Protection Measures.

1.9. Structure of this Report

Due to the multi-faceted nature of this proposed development, the DPEMP is a large document. Every effort has been made to make this report as user friendly as possible. A brief description of the main sections of the report is provided in Table 5.

Table 5 Brief Description of the DPEMP Report Structure

Section Heading	Brief Description of Information Provided
Frontispiece	A brief description of the environmental and planning approval process through which the proposed development is to pass and to which this DPEMP provides supporting information.
Executive Summary	A summary of the proposed development and information provided in the DPEMP in support of the development application and environmental and planning approvals.
1. Introduction	Description of the proponent, the proposals history, justifications for the development, and a list of relevant legislation and policies that have been considered when preparing the DPEMP.
2. Development Proposal	Description of the proposed development as a whole.
3. Existing Environment	Description of the existing environment, with identification of significant features, which may necessitate the implementation of management measures to minimise potential impacts of the development.
4. Transport and Roads	Description of the existing road transport operations, alternative transport arrangements and road routes considered, potential environmental impacts associated with road transport and proposed mitigation measures.

Section Heading	Brief Description of Information Provided
5. Site-Wide Issues – EMP	Discussion of site-wide issues (such as common services), with respect to their potential impacts and management measures.
6. Merchandising Yard - EMP	Detailed description of the facility’s operations, with discussion of its potential impacts on the existing environment and the management measures proposed.
7. Sawmill - EMP	As above
8. Rotary Peeled Veneer Mill – EMP	As above
9. Wood Fibre Production – EMP	As above
10. Wood-Fired Power Generation – EMP	As above
11. Health Impact Assessment	Discussion of the potential health related impacts of the development.
12. Cumulative Effect of the Development, Conclusions and Commitments	Consideration of the possible cumulative effect of the proposed development on the environment. Summing up of the report findings and commitments for the prevention of pollution and protection of the environment.