

The LEC campaign to reduce water consumption in Tasmania's north by 15% is under threat from the proposal to build a pulp mill near Launceston.

Any water saving initiatives you implement at home will be a waste of time if the government and upper house approves the mill.

The Proposed Pulp Mill Near Launceston

Gunns Pty. Ltd. plan to build Australia's largest pulp mill near Launceston on the banks of the Tamar River.

The proposed mill will use 26 billion litres of water each year.

Esk Water sold an estimated 8.9 billion litres of treated water to Launceston for the 2005/2006 period.

In other words, the pulp mill will need almost three times the amount of water used in the whole of Launceston each and every year.

Any water savings made elsewhere during the Tassie WaterSavers campaign will pail into insignificance should the mill be built.

Where Will the Water Come From?

The water for the proposed pulp mill will be supplied from Lake Trevallyn. Lake Trevallyn is part of Tasmania's Hydro Electric Scheme and is predominantly filled from the Great Lake.

Great Lake is currently at about 15% capacity (as of July 24, 2007) . If winter and spring rains fail again this year, the proposed mill will have a significant impact upon storage levels at Great Lake.

Will this mean more water restrictions next summer for farmers that rely on water from the Great Lake for irrigation? Probably.

Plantation Impacts

To feed the proposed mill as well as Tasmania's woodchip industry vast areas of country are being converted to blue gum plantations.

Young plantations are thirsty and need a lot of water to grow. The water requirements for plantation growth to feed the proposed mill and Tasmania's woodchip industry will be 1,100 billion litres .

This is more than double the amount of water consumed by the city of Melbourne (420 billion litres) every year.

The logo for 'TASSIE WATERSAVERS' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is contained within a white, irregular shape that resembles a water splash or a piece of paper with torn edges. The background of the splash is a light blue gradient.

Take Action

The best thing you can do right now to try and stop the proposed mill is to encourage Tasmanian upper house members to vote against the governments approvals.

Write to them and say the proposed pulp mill should not be given access to 26 billion litres of water every year from Lake Trevallyn.

It is wasteful, and plantations grown to feed the mill will impact upon environmental flows in our regions rivers.

Financial returns from the plantation estate using 1100 billion litres of water over a 15 year period will be \$2 billion. The same amount of water invested in other crops could be as high as \$8 billion.

The pulp mill will have negative economic impacts on other sectors of Tasmania's economy, including tourism. Will tourists keep visiting Tasmania if the rivers no longer flow, the landscape is dominated by plantations and the air in the Tamar Valley smells of rotting eggs?

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TASSIE WATERSAVERS