



Background Information

100 per cent plantation feedstock

The Bell Bay Pulp Mill will be supplied with 100 per cent eucalypt plantation fibre from Gunns' Tasmanian and mainland plantations. No native forest timber will be used in the pulp mill.

Gunns is currently undergoing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of its eucalypt plantations.

The certification process, which will take at least 18 months, involves rigorous independent audits and a fully transparent stakeholder engagement process.

FSC certified product is demanded by many of Gunns customers. Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and PEFC¹ certification has already been achieved for the estate.

Best available technology – ECF Light process

The bleached Kraft pulp production process that will be used for the Bell Bay Pulp Mill converts wood chips to wood pulp through a complex digestion and bleaching process.

The mill will use an Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) process, which provides a high level of environmental performance as well as meeting the market demand for bright, white paper.

Bleached Kraft pulp mills using ECF technology have evolved over recent years, with each one being technologically and environmentally better than the last. The majority of modern pulp mills use ECF technology because of its good environmental performance and ability to meet market demand.

Through the use of the best available technology in the pulp production process, the mill will use 40 per cent less chlorine dioxide per tonne of pulp than the traditional ECF process. This is called an ECF "light" process.

As well as a whiter pulp, the ECF process produces paper with stronger fibers, which can be recycled more times than pulp produced through the total chlorine free process.

¹ Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) which is the world's largest forest certification organisation.