



## Chief Scientist

Dr Jim Peacock AC

**Office of the Chief Scientist**

c/- Department of Education, Science and Training  
16 Mort Street  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA  
GPO Box 9880, CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Tel: 61 2 6240 7880 Fax: 61 2 6240 9153  
Email: [chief.scientist@dest.gov.au](mailto:chief.scientist@dest.gov.au)

---

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Minister for the Environment and Water Resources  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I attach the report of the panel of scientists I formed to carry out your request for assessment and review of the scientific aspects of the recommendations from your Department regarding the relevant supporting documentation and public comments on the Gunns Limited pulp mill proposal, EPBC 2007/3385.

We found that the Proponent's submission documenting their findings relating to Australian Government environmental assets was inadequate in some aspects, posing residual risks and uncertainties.

We have suggested a course of action that you ask your Department to undertake prior to your final decision. Primarily, we recommend that your Department require the Proponent to prepare and agree to carry out an Environmental Impact Management Plan (EIMP) with components detailed by the Department, and that the Department's final agreement to the satisfactory completion of the EIMP should be legally binding on the Proponent.

Minister, my panel further suggests that you might seek further advice as to an effective structure for the ongoing environmental governance of the project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jim Peacock'.

Dr Jim Peacock  
24 September 2007