



MEDIA STATEMENT

Helen Burnet & Bill Harvey
Greens Aldermen Hobart City Council

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GREENS VOCAL ON INFORMATION FOR ANZ

The Greens at Hobart City Council want a clear message to be sent to the ANZ not to invest in Gunn's proposed pulp mill in the Tamar Valley.

In a heated debate on Tuesday evening, the Finance and Corporate Services Committee services meeting discussed a report prepared on the investments in financial institutions associated with proponents of the pulp mill. The report revealed that the Council has approximately \$5m worth of investments with the ANZ. The bank had yet to decide on whether to invest in the pulp mill or not.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Ald John Freeman, Dep Mayor Eva Ruzicka, Greens Aldermen Helen Burnet and Bill Harvey, and Ald Elise Archer. Ald Zucco, a member of the finance committee arrived during the debate.

The Officer report contained a draft letter to the ANZ to inform them of the result of the October elector poll on the pulp mill, which showed that the people of Hobart overwhelmingly did not support the proposed pulp mill, its location and the type of pulp processing.

"It is time for the Council to not only inform the ANZ of the result of the elector poll, but to take a stand on how we want our money invested", Greens Alderman Helen Burnet said after the meeting. "We have a significant amount of ratepayer's money tied up with ANZ, and the Greens believe that the people of Hobart on the whole would not want the money Council invests with the ANZ to go anywhere near the Tamar Valley pulp mill.

Greens Alderman Bill Harvey amended the motion for the letter to include the HCC's commitment to tackling climate change and that it is not the intention of Council to have its money invested in climate change contributing ventures.

"The contributing factors to climate change linked to the mill such as the use of old growth forests, likely pollution from the pulp mill and energy consumption are not the image that the Greens feel the Hobart City Council want to be associated with.

“We want ethical investment which harnesses Tasmania’s future, rather than those which harm the environment for future generations”, Ald Harvey concluded.

Alderman Harvey’s amendment was defeated. However, a recommendation to send the letter to the ANZ in relation to the result of the pulp mill elector poll was unanimously supported.

The recommendation will now be debated at full Council on Monday evening.