



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

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## **MINISTER APPROVES FIRST TWO MODULES OF GUNNS PULP MILL PROJECT**

The first two modules of the plan to manage the environmental impacts of the Gunns pulp mill project were approved today by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett.

These modules form the first part of the Environmental Impact Management Plan (EIMP) developed by Gunns as a condition of approval of the project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

These modules relate only to the clearing of the mill site.

Another 14 modules will require the Minister's approval before additional work can be undertaken.

These first two modules - an overview module, and the vegetation clearing module for the mill site - were assessed by the Independent Expert Group set up for this purpose, and also by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

The Minister's decision was based on extensive advice from both the expert group and the Department.

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Management Plan is to impose stringent requirements that ensure the 48 conditions of approval for the pulp mill are met and closely monitored.