

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2007-08
11 March 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Gunns Limited's pulp mill

REFERENCE: Written Question

QUESTION No. AI-23

Senator The Hon. Eric Abetz asked:

Is your recommendation of the dioxin trigger for the Tasmanian paper mill 6 times more stringent than recommended by the RPDC?

ANSWER

The RPDC limit recommended for dioxins was 13 pg TEQ/L. Our recommendation was 2 pg TEQ/L, based on what might be detectable in the effluent by the best analytical techniques, and further justified by the fact that modern plants can achieve dioxin concentrations below this concentration. This is 6.5 times more stringent, but readily achievable as well as being more protective.