

Media Release



Dorset Renewable Industries Pty Ltd, Wednesday 18th December, 2013.

For immediate use.

Continuing uncertainty over Ling Siding.

The Chairman of Dorset Renewable Industries, David Hamilton, today provided an update on the status of their plan to purchase the former Gunn's site at Ling Siding in order to establish an Integrated Timber Processing Hub at the site. "I am happy to announce that we have reached substantial agreement with RNG Property Developments to purchase most of the industrial land at Ling Siding from them," David said. "The sale will however be subject to DRI receiving the promised grant under the Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Plan."

"The news with respect to the grant is more mixed. Although the incoming Federal Government have confirmed that the grant is available, they have made it conditional upon a 'value for money' test. The paperwork we need to complete for that value for money test reads very much as if we are actually applying for the grant from scratch. The guidelines for the value for money test are still being finalised, and until we see them, we have no feel for how closely our plans match the kind of projects the new Government has in mind."

David pointed out the significance of this development for the timber industry in the NE: "This grant was initially applied for to help diversify the timber industry in the NE. Our plan is to encourage existing and new industries to consolidate their

operations at Ling Siding, so they can share resources and pass materials to each other: what is waste for one operation could be valuable raw material for another. Putting such an integrated mix of operations together will necessarily take time, particularly if, as we hope, some are innovative, new industries. If the 'value for money' test includes a requirement for everything to be ready to go now, DRI - and therefore the industry in the NE - will be at a disadvantage. Support from the new federal Liberal Member for Bass, Andrew Nikolic, will be very important in our bid to get this grant, and we will be talking to him as soon as possible”.

“Finally”, David said, “while Mr Robin Gerke has been positive, productive and helpful in our discussions about purchasing much of Ling Siding from his company, no reasonable person could expect him to wait forever while the status of our funding continues to be uncertain. There will, therefore, be a date after which our agreement may cease to exist and our opportunity to buy Ling Siding to re-establish timber processing operations there may evaporate. Dorset Renewable Industries will work very hard to do our very best to make this project happen. We hope the community understands that much is still at stake, and will support our on-going efforts.”