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Media Release

Friday 26 June 2009 – for immediate release

Joint Talks Needed For Paper Mills

The CFMEU has demanded to be part of any discussion between Tas Paper and the State and Federal Governments on the future of the companies pulp and paper mills at Wesley Vale and Burnie.

The Union demand follows the company announcement that it was deferring a final decision on the future of the mills.

CFMEU Pulp and Paper Branch Federal Secretary Mr. Alex Miller said today the company's behaviour was disrespectful of its workforce and the local community.

“If the company is deferring a decision on the future of the mills so that it can have discussions with Government, as has been reported, then we want to part of those discussions.”

“The workers at these mills through their union should have the right to be included in any discussions. They do not need to have their futures and the futures of their families and their communities determined behind closed doors.”

Mr. Miller pointed out that if the company and Government were serious about maximising the chances of keeping the mills open, then a collective effort was needed.

“Our Union has just played a crucial role in keeping a critically important factory open in Victoria and we know that with the expertise our members have, they can make a positive contribution to protecting jobs.”

Mr Miller also slammed the Company for announcing the deferral of a decision publicly without informing the workforce first.

“The Union is disgusted with the approach of the company - our members are outraged that they are hearing announcements about their future on the radio like it was no more important than a weather update.”

For media comment please call Alex Millar 0419 872 844