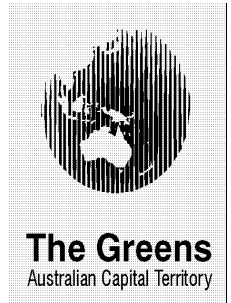


Deb Foskey MLA

Member for Molonglo
Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Phone 61 (02) 6205 0161 Fax 6205 0007



Fri 19 Aug 2005

Public Participation Act clearly needed

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey has pointed to the continuing unjustified behaviour of Tasmanian timber company Gunns Limited in pursuing 20 environmentalists as evidence of the need for anti-SLAPP legislation throughout Australia.

“The Victorian Supreme Court has thrown the Gunns case out of court once, and this week ordered it to pay court costs of the 20 people it is persecuting. Undeterred, Gunns has re-filed its case” Dr Foskey said today.

“Despite the very obvious inadequacies of its case, Gunns is continuing with legal action in order to intimidate its opposition. By these actions, it is demonstrating very clearly that we need legislation to protect the right of the public to act in support of social, community and political causes.”

“The Court Procedures (Protection of Public Participation) Amendment Bill 2005, which I introduced to the Legislative Assembly in June, and which has been drafted to prevent the use of Strategic Litigation against public participation (SLAPP) suites is still before the House. For this bill to succeed I need the support of the ACT Government.”

“The ball is in their court” Dr Foskey said.

MEDIA CONTACT Roland Manderson **62050551** or **0412241379**

another world is possible...