

Our Ref DOIA 24-110

Your Ref Tasman paper mill sale

26 October 2023

██████████, NZ Herald

By Email: ██████████@nzme.co.nz

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Tēnā koe ██████████,

Response to your official information request

I refer to your questions of 24 October 2023 arising from the media release about the Tasman Mill properties being sold to Oji Fibre Solutions, in particular:

“A press release from Oji Fibre Solutions says the sale this month was granted OIO approval. Who was the vendor? Was it Norske Skog or NS Norway Holding? I don't understand how the two companies relate to each other.

Can you confirm the OIO wrote to (either Norske Skog or NS Norway Holding) in late 2021/early 2022 to require the company (which one?) to dispose of the mill assets and land after it was found to have technically breached its consent conditions when it closed the mill in June 2021? The documents I have show there was a recommendation to do so, but doesn't say if this actually occurred.”

I confirm that the enforcement team issued a disposal notice to NS Norway Holding AS on 14 December 2021 requiring it to dispose of the Tasman Mill land. The disposal notice was issued because it was in technical breach of its consent conditions once it ceased operating the mill on the land.

Further to that notice, consent has now been granted to PPP Operations (NZ) Limited and Oji Fibre Solutions (NZ) Limited to acquire a freehold interest and a leasehold interest in some of the land associated with the Tasman Mill.

The vendor in this transaction is Norske Skog Tasman Limited.

You enquired about the relationship between Norske Skog and NS Norway Holding. On 31 August 2018 NS Norway Holding AS was granted consent to acquire Norske Skog AS. Norske Skog Tasman Limited, who originally owned the sensitive land, was a subsidiary of Norske Skog AS. This was the company structure at the time this consent was granted.

The investment decision summary for PPP Operations (NZ) Limited and Oji Fibre Solutions (NZ) Limited's consent will be available on our website this Tuesday.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand's website. This is likely to be published by 30 November 2023.

Nāku noa, nā



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Proactive release