

Gunns bosses could get refund over failed prosecution

NICK CLARK

GUNNS Ltd directors could have their legal costs reimbursed to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars after a failed Workplace Standards

Tasmania prosecution against them.

The Workplace Standards Tasmania prosecution of Gunns directors John Gay, Robin Gray, Robin Holyman, Richard Millar, Cornelis van

der Kley and Christopher Newman collapsed because directors cannot be charged as employers.

After the case was dismissed, counsel for the Gunns directors, David Gunson, SC,

and Ross Ray, QC, applied for costs.

Magistrate Zygmunt Szramka found that each director was entitled to have his costs assessed as 80 per cent of Supreme Court Schedule 1.

In the same hearing yesterday, Mr Szramka fined Gunns Ltd \$7500 after it pleaded guilty to one count of failing to maintain plant in a safe condition in June 2007.

The fine related to an inci-

dent in which an employee lost the tip of his left-hand ring finger on an unguarded saw.

Mr Szramka said there was potential for serious injury although the injury was at the lower end of the scale.