

From: [charles stubbs](#)
To: [FinFish](#)
Subject: Inquiry Into Finfish Farming in Tasmania
Date: Tuesday, 12 November 2019 1:38:41 PM

Dear Members of the Legislative Council,

I would like to begin by thanking you for holding this inquiry and welcoming submissions. I am the spokesperson for the group Keep King Island Fish Farm Free and understandably this submission is focussed on the possibility of fish farms being established off King Island.

After the State Government asked the three Tasmanian fish farming companies to identify areas where they might like to establish fish farms, TASSAL decided to investigate the feasibility of an area off the north east coast of King Island. TASSAL organised a public meeting on King Island in late November 2017. The meeting was well attended and the overwhelming feeling of the residents at the meeting was clear opposition to the proposal. This was the one and only avenue of community consultation despite TASSAL promising "deep consultation with the King Island community.....over a lengthy period before formalising the proposal," (The Courier March 21st 2018) In March 2018, TASSAL set up Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler buoys to collect relevant data as well as monthly water sampling which continue today. None of this data or its meaning has been communicated to the community nor has TASSAL given any indication of its intentions

Just over 60% of all King Island residents/rate payers have signed a petition opposing fish farming off the island. Over 25,000 people have signed an on-line petition organised by Surfrider Foundation Australia.

Mark Asman of TASSAL stated to our group that "TASSAL could base its whole operation off King Island if conditions are suitable."

Our opposition is based on the following:

1. The King Island Brand.

The island's economy is absolutely dependent on the King Island brand. The basis of our brand is our clean and green image, our minimal industrialisation and our pristine and unpolluted air, land and seas. This brand powers our value added products from the land and the sea and is a major factor in our promotion of King Island as a unique tourist destination. If the King Island brand was tainted by an association with industrial fish farming then the damage to our economy would be far reaching if not catastrophic.

2. Social and Environmental Impact.

King Island is a quiet, peaceful retreat from what is becoming an increasingly dirty,

crowded world. This would be severely compromised by industrial fish farming operations and the associated 24 hours a day noise, light and boat movements. King Island has little or no unemployment, little accommodation available, little excess power generating capacity and no where near enough fresh water to support an land based fish processing and to bathe the salmon to prevent amoebic gill disease. All suggesting that if fish farming is established it would be almost entirely marine based.

The considered area off the North East coast of King Island is adjacent to a world famous Surf break at Martha Lavinia. This break is now on the Internationally recognised Endangered Waves list. This surf break itself would be severely impacted by the huge, numerous fortress fish pens. As well there are a number of negative impacts from industrial fish farming including the following: Fish farms attract seals which in turn attract sharks. Environmental impacts include fish farm debris, jelly fish and algal blooms, increased nitrogen levels from fish poo, organic waste etc all of which will impact on native fish and fisheries to some degree and when Atlantic salmon escape as inevitably happens they survive by feeding on the native fish.

Fish farming in the in-shore, coastal waters of King Island would reduce people's access to these waters for recreational and professional purposes.

We all remember what happened in Macquarie Harbour when the greed-lead over-stocking resulted in an environmental disaster from which the harbour is still recovering. We all pay a very big price when companies self-manage in support of their profits and shareholders.

I do thank you for considering our submission. We would be happy to discuss any of the above.

Signed: Charlie Stubbs.

Spokesperson for: Keep King Island Fish Farm Free.

