

GAA/FIN 120

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Mr Stuart Wright
Inquiry Secretary
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Submission to Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A -Sub-Committee - Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry

Dear Mr Wright

As a resident of Tinderbox with views of existing fish farming leases further down the channel, as well as those passed at gun-powder jetty, my key concerns are focussed in two areas.

The first of these is around the regular low-frequency sound pollution caused by passing vessels associated with fish farming both at night and early in the morning.

The second and perhaps most unsettling area of concern is the proximity and extent of these leases to the Tinderbox and other marine reserves. As natural places specifically set aside for ecological sanctuary, I'm yet to be convinced that the localised dissolved nitrogen levels are not having a detrimental effect on these very precious and fragile ecosystems - enjoyed by many for recreational diving, snorkelling and most importantly, scientific research.

I endorse the following recommendations by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust 1. Complete independent water quality and environmental studies, before any environmental licences are issued (not an "adaptive management" approach)., 2. Environmental licences must set a hard cap on biomass and dissolved nitrogen and other pollutants emitted into our waterways from pens, hatcheries and other infrastructure., 3. Require all licences and licence amendments (marine and land based) to be referred to the EPA board so that the community can have a say., 4. Commission an independent review of the Marine Farming Planning Review Panel, focusing on its membership, governance and ties to industry., 5. Improve transparency and enforcement by prosecuting fish escapes, fish kills, marine debris and seal and cetacean interactions., 6. Mandate public reporting for disease outbreaks and other bio-security incidents., 7. Amend the Marine Farming Planning Act to require valuation and protection of social, recreational and visual amenity; and consideration of noise impacts on surrounding residents.

Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely
Tim Sidebottom