

29 November 2019

ATT: Mr Stuart Wright
Inquiry Secretary
Parliament House, HOBART, 7000

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FinFish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry

I am 89 years of age. My family history on the Tasman Peninsula goes back to convict times. Before my family moved to Hobart we lived permanently on the Tasman Peninsula at Oakwood. We owned the property between both Long Bay and Stingaree Bay, we still do today 6 generations after my grandfather first purchased it.

There were 3 pretty little beaches, white with lovely shell grit for my Gran's chickens and plentiful fish (including plenty of crayfish and flounder). When my 4 children came along they spent a lot of time on the bay with their dinghy's, paddle boards and canoes.

My late husband and I were involved with Scouts and Girl Guides from the 1960's and hosted many camps on our family property. Many activities were undertaken on the water such as canoeing, boating and swimming. We also hosted many school camps for students from Clarence High and Geilston Bay High, who also undertook many water activities on the bays. Many hundreds, if not thousands of young Tasmanians have spent time in this spot, enjoying Long Bay and Stingaree Bay.

In the mid 80's the salmon farm moved in and the beautiful white sands turned grey. When they moved out for about 10 years everything gradually returned back to normal.

When they moved back in later years, overstocked and with no care for the bays, things have become a disaster. The beaches have blackish sludge, the top of the water is putrid with this sludge (stinking), killing the beautiful seagrass below. No longer do our beautiful bays sparkle. Sadly our beautiful bays are almost dead.

I call upon the inquiry committee to recommend an immediate moratorium of all finfish farming expansion in the state, a temporary pause so that stricter regulations can be brought into place.

I further recommend that the inquiry require operators to remove all finfish operations from sheltered bays such as Long Bay and relocate to more suitable locations such as the open sea.

Regards

Mabs Mollineaux