

GAA/FIN 166

Frits Harmsen

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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

My name is Frits Harmsen and I have lived in Tinderbox, Tasmania since 1983. I have seen the emergence of the salmon fish farm industry in my local area and I am displeased at the lack of regulation and meaningful community consultation since the industry's inception. I am dissatisfied by the poor community consultation by industry operators and the poor response by government organisations to our concerns. There are multiple issues that concern me including noise pollution, visual pollution, rubbish disposed into the environment by fish farms, and pollution by feed and poo entering the area where there are salmon nets. I am dissatisfied by the lack of good community consultation by the industry operators, the regulators and government representatives. I think that the state government has offered fish farm operators excessive leniency when it comes to rules and regulations. It seems that fish farms get away with a lot of indiscretions with little more than a slap on the wrist. I question the role of the EPA with regard to the independent regulation finfish farm operations. I would like to have seen more involvement by the local councils in fishfarm activities, roles and regulations. I am concerned by increased growth of seaweed in my area and pacific oysters now cover the rocks on the foreshore near my house. Large boats come and go into North West Bay outside normal working hours such as the Ronja Huon and when we have questioned fishfarm operators about their presence we are told we are mistaken. I feel that fishfarms are not prosecuted for infringements of their regulations, but I also feel that regulations are not strong enough to prevent major violations by fishfarm operators. When we have attended community meetings with Huon Aquaculture and Tassal they are dismissive and arrogant about their practices. The salmon farm industry is growing and I feel that without proper scrutiny, all the issues I have mentioned will only get worse.

Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely  
Frits Harmsen