

GAA/FIN 171

Rod Hartvigsen

29 November 2019

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

I live on Conleys Beach, South Bruny Island. I have had the property for over 10 years and have lived there fulltime for the last 4 years. At last count via Google Earth app, there are 187 fish farm pens within a 12km radius of my place. I spend much of my time collecting rubbish from Conleys Beach and surrounding rocks. Most of it can directly be associated with fish farms by rope identification colours and obvious use. The most widespread rubbish are rope fragments and pieces of black plastic swarf from drilling and cutting black polypropylene. I pick up many broken articles that are welded black polypropylene. This material should be banned from being used for fabricating on fish farms because it doesn't stand up to wear and tear and storm damage. I also pick up a lot of fish farm paperwork that is not on paper but plastic. Fish farms should not be permitted to use plastic for paperwork as it does not breakdown. Noise and light is a big problem. The closest farm to my house is 2.5km away. It is operated by Tassal and has approx 50 pens. Motor, generator or boat noise is penetrating and goes on often 24hrs per day. Curfews should apply. Light pollution is generally intense. Huon Aquaculture generally harvest at night and having bright lights shone around the channel, onto houses etc should be controlled. In the 10 years since I have had this property, I have noticed a steady increase in weed growth on all rocks, reefs and even Sandy areas. Rockpools are now smothered by weed growth and every little bay and inlet has a dusting of brownish sediment. The massive release of fish excrement in the relatively low tidal movement of the channel is an environmental disaster.

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.

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Regarding public hearings, I would like more information from the secretary about opportunities to present to the committee.

Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely

Rod Hartvigsen