

GAA/FIN 213

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29 November 2019

Mr Stuart Wright  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliament House, HOBART 7000  
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Submission to Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A -Sub-Committee - Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry

Dear Mr Wright

To whom it may concern, I have lived on the Tasman peninsula for the past 15 yrs. and regularly spend time in and on the sea, and enjoy the wild coastlines and beaches.

Like many who choose to live here, I have direct experience of significant changes to the marine ecosystem from fish farm pollution. The smothering of marine habitat, with fish farm waste, slime occurring on iconic beaches, the loss of local native fish species previously abundant etc...

Local families cannot simply catch a feed of fish here anymore without big \$\$ safe boats going further offshore.

The environmental, social and economic impacts need to be assessed independently and transparently so the community has confidence that their concerns are not being ignored, and due process and commonwealth legislation are applied and enforced properly.

There has not been independent & transparent environmental impact assessments done for the existing and proposed leases.

The proposed massive industrial expansion is not offshore and is highly visible and intrusive to the community, With noise and water pollution.

Having attended several community meetings on the Tasman, according to Tassal there are conveniently no negative impacts from the proposal to create the biggest salmon farm in southern Tasmania. And it's all about jobs for the community. Same spin as macquarie harbor, no new jobs happened there. Complete incompetence, overstocking disaster, no applied science, simply greed.

The latest well boat acquisition has already caused the loss of significant jobs, with greater automation, efficiency and profit.

There are significant negative impacts to this unique region from this massive industrial proposal.

It's a biodiversity hotspot that attracts nature based people and tourists for its relatively pristine, wild nature.

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Any proposal to create a massive industrial theme park here would be inappropriate and undermine the natural values of why people are drawn to the Tasman peninsula. I live on the Tasman peninsula & have done so for 15 yrs.

This area is a nature hotspot for biodiversity, wild places & coastlines. This is why people live here & visit. Not to see a massive industrial Fish farm inshore, creating noise, visual and water pollution of iconic coastline & beaches. & profit for a few shareholders who don't live here.

There has never been proper independent, peer reviewed Environmental impact assessments undertaken for the existing parsons bay lease and the proposed wedge island expansion. This is clearly due process and required under commonwealth legislation.

The community has no confidence in the profit focused fish farms ability to manage public natural resources. The disaster of overstocking Macquarie harbor. The usual spin & rhetoric of jobs that don't happen.

The recent 100m boat arrival has already caused significant job losses at Tassal. Which is usual when greater profit is the desired outcome, automation & efficiency increase.

I Have attended several community meetings on the Tasman, according to Tassal there are no negative impacts to the local community from their proposal to make the biggest industrial fish farm inshore in southern Tasmania.

Clearly independent research needs to be conducted here to identify and outline the environmental, social & economic impacts that have strategically not been considered by Tassal.

Impacts on locals due to loss of native fishery, and other commercial operators.

Impacts on nature based tourism in the area.

Loss of access through the proposed region

Loss of natural values of residents who choose to live here now staring at an industrial fish farm operation.

pristine iconic beaches which are becoming covered in slime.

little knowledge of known & unknown species that would be affected by this massive inshore expansion.

Seals sharks & whales, local native fish & commercially targeted species.

Much of the local marine ecosystem near existing parsons bay lease has clearly been negatively affected by fish farm waste.

This means local families cannot catch a feed of seafood without big safer boats going further offshore.

Very limited hydrodynamic & oceanographic knowledge of the existing & proposed sites.

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I have highlighted several important environmental, social and economic issues that need to actually be assessed independently, peer reviewed and supported by real science.

To ensure the communities concerns are not ignored and due process is followed. And corporate fish farmers are made responsible for their leases, waste, and real impacts on the community and environment. Paying tax, not receiving govt subsidies.

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

Daniel Owen