

GAA/FIN 214

Paul Vaughan

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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

Having spent over 20 years swimming all around our the coastal areas of Tasmania as a professional abalone diver I can tell you some of the damage that the salmon industry is doing to our beautiful state, but I'm pretty sure that with all the bad publicity that this particular industry is currently receiving WORLDWIDE our government should be well aware of the fact that this industry is toxic and does not contribute anything sustainable to our state except pollution and total disregard for the local environment and its people IE, east coast council that is on the verge of financial ruin because of dealings with this industry, relocation of hundreds of seals which decimated the local small fisheries in the north of the state, the abundance of plastic pipes and other salmon debris which have damaged boats and are putting people's lives in danger.

For you guys to accept an adaptive management policy for this industry is an absolutely disgusting idea imagine if we used this type of policy for criminals, this industry is damaging our waterways and you guys are responsible for protecting our natural assets and resources, so how exactly are you protecting Macquarie harbour which is currently in a state of ruin, is it by letting them have access to even more of our once pristine waterways with exactly the same operations that have been proven to cause degradation on a massive scale?

There are a lot of people in our state that care about what is going on here and I would like to let you know that we will be campaigning to protect our state waterways, we are expecting a lot better management of this industry, the fines are inadequate for the damage they do and if nothing is to be done about the damage to Macquarie harbour and all the other shortcomings of this industry then we will have as many conversations as we can and try to get in a government that will protect our beautiful home.

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

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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

Paul Vaughan