



Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

15 November 2012

TASMANIAN SEA-BASED ABALONE FARMING INQUIRY

A Legislative Council Committee today announced an inquiry into sea-based abalone farming in Tasmania.

Independent Member for Nelson, Hon Jim Wilkinson MLC, who will chair the inquiry, said the Committee would examine a range of issues around the development of the industry in Tasmania, including the employment and economic benefits it could bring to the State.

‘Tasmania’s wild abalone fishery is a very valuable export industry and there appears to be great potential to build on this by exporting sea-farmed abalone to Asia where the shellfish is highly prized,’ Mr Wilkinson said.

There are sea-based abalone farms in other States, but Tasmania only has one operating on Flinders Island, so there should be opportunities for others to be established in suitable waters around the State.

‘While there are some challenges because of the Abalone Viral Ganglioneutitis (AVG) which has spread here from Victoria, appropriate biosecurity protocols should be available to manage any risk to sea-based abalone marine farms,’ he said.

‘This is one area that the Committee will examine very closely to ensure that no artificial barriers are in place to hamper the development of a safe and viable export industry in Tasmania.’

Mr Wilkinson said the inquiry would also investigate access arrangements for Tasmanian sea-farmed abalone to national and international markets, as well as any potential impacts on the environment.

An advertisement calling for written submissions on the Committee’s Terms of Reference will appear in Tasmania’s three daily newspapers on Saturday 17 November 2012.

ends

Media Note: Inquiry Terms of Reference are attached.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Jim Wilkinson MLC on 0419 349 251



2012

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Government Administration Committee "A"

Inquiry into Sea-based Abalone Farming in Tasmania

Terms of Reference

In accordance with Sessional Order 4 (13), Government Administration Committee A has this day resolved to initiate an inquiry on the following Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report upon:

- (1) sea-based abalone farming in Tasmania, with particular reference to the economic benefits and to restrictions on access to national and international markets;
- (2) any appropriate protocols to address issues related to biosecurity and environmental impacts;
- (3) any other matters incidental thereto.

DATE: 13 November 2012