

5 Buchanan Street

Bellerive 7018

03-07-2014

The Secretary,

Public Works Committee,

Parliament House,

Hobart, TAS 7000

Dear Sir,

Re: Macquarie Heads Development Road

(Proposed road works: Mill Bay Precinct, Ocean Beach Road, Strahan.)

For the past 30 years we have had leasehold over a jetty site at Mill Bay Strahan. (Depicted in Plate 6 Pg.8 of North Barker report PAS090 prepared for Pitt & Sherry.) The current lease has 25 years to run. During this period, we, and countless others, have enjoyed the quiet peaceful setting, the natural environment – especially birdlife (including the threatened Tasmanian Azure Kingfisher) – and the surrounding native trees.

Whilst we understand the economic significance of Salmon Farming in Macquarie Harbour, we do not believe that the associated infrastructure (including proposed road works associated with facilitating heavy vehicle movement) should be to the detriment of the Mill Bay precinct.

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources invited representations in respect to the abovementioned proposed works; however they supplied no response to the following requests/concerns raised:

1/ Written confirmation was sought in respect to a verbal commitment that, “no vegetation would be removed from the foreshore, or road verge, in the Mill Bay precinct.” Written confirmation was sought, as substantial impact on vegetation in this area had already occurred despite assurances to the

contrary. (As at 14-05-2014, some clearing of waterfront vegetation had occurred and was apparently carried out by surveyors engaged by Pitt & Sherry.)

2/ No thorough environmental impact study has been carried out, despite the presence of the endangered Tasmanian Azure King Fisher in this precinct. DIER has relied solely on the findings of North Barker Ecosystem Services, which focused exclusively on the presence or absence of Azure Kingfisher Burrows, and failed to consider the documented reports of Azure Kingfishers using vegetation on the Northern side of Mill Bay as a vantage point to prey upon the native Galaxias. As such, this precinct constitutes a significant component of the habitat. This vegetation is in the immediate vicinity of a proposed concrete wall construction. (Ref. Plate 1, Pg.6 North Barker document PAS090 prepared for Pitt & Sherry.)

3/ No heritage study has been undertaken to ensure that Mill Bay precinct does not contain artefacts from the Aboriginal inhabitants of this Cove, or from later European/Convict settlement.

4/ Proposed road works in the Mill Bay precinct include the excavation of the hill adjacent to the foreshore, (Ref. Plates 1, 2, 3, & 4 North Barker document PAS090 prepared for Pitt & Sherry) and construction of a lengthy concrete wall which will reach at its maximum a height of 4 metres. This concrete wall will detract considerably from the visual amenity, both from the shore, and when viewed from the water. This is surely not best practice, particularly in a town that relies heavily on tourism, (and thus on visual amenity) to sustain its economy.

5/ Proposed concrete wall will substantially magnify noise from frequent heavy vehicle movements. No provision to mitigate the amplification of noise from heavy vehicle movements alongside a concrete wall, are evident in the proposed 'development' documentation or specifications.

6/ Proposed concrete wall will significantly impact wind conditions in the precinct. There are no details in the 'development' documentation or specifications that indicate how this concrete wall might impact vegetation, boats, jetties, boat owners or residents due to a 'wind tunnel' effect in the prevailing Westerly and South Westerly winds. DIER was asked whether

assessment had been undertaken as to the shape, materials used, and foundation stability of the concrete wall, as it pertains to wind impact. No response was received.

In the interests of enabling the movement of heavy vehicles in and out of the 'Fish Farm Hub' at Smith's Cove – without catastrophic impact on endangered species, natural environment and heritage, and the visual amenity of the Mill Bay Precinct – We urge this Parliamentary Standing Committee to seek more appropriate funding to facilitate the bypass of this precinct.

We trust you will give consideration to the concerns raised, and we are keen to continue dialogue in an effort to reach an outcome that is acceptable.

Kind Regards

Scott & Sharon Newett



We will be out of the State from July 7<sup>th</sup> until July 15<sup>th</sup>, and consequently are unable to attend the public hearing.

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