

**Allison Waddington**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 November 2019 2:36 PM  
**To:** FinFish  
**Cc:** 'Michelle Pears'  
**Subject:** Michelle Pears - Submission to the Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Enquiry  
**Attachments:** 1 - Swimming in Stingaree bay 2013.jpg; 2 - Low tide in Stingaree 2013.jpg; 3 - Healthy Seagrass in Stingaree Bay 2013.jpg; 4 - Beach near Fox & Hounds 2013.jpg; 5 - Kayaking in Stingaree 15.2.2014.jpg; 6 - School of fish in clean healthy Stingaree Feb 2015.jpg; 7- Long Bay behind Seascape 2016.jpg; 8 - Lovely clean Stingaree before FishFarms.jpg; 9 - Stingaree Bay Before fish farm.jpg; 10 - 21.11.19 Stingaree Bay Beach looking out to mouth of Bay with TASSAL Fish Farm in distance.jpg; 11 - Sludge in Stingaree Bay Feb 2019.jpg; 12 - Stingaree Bay slimed up by FishFarm Feb 2019.jpg; 13 - Struggling seagrass in Long Bay behind Seascape 20.11.19.jpg; 14 - Algae choking seagrass in Long Bay looking to Port Arthur Lavender.jpg; 15 - Choked seagrass 25.2.19.jpg; 16 - Sandstone landmark Stingaree Bay 21.11.19.jpg; 17 - Stingray near sandstone landmark Stingaree Bay Feb 2015.jpg; Submission to the Parliamentary enquiry from Michelle Pears.docx; Is it really OK.docx

26.11.19

ATT: Mr. Stuart Wright  
 Inquiry Secretary  
 Parliament House, HOBART, 7000  
 finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au

Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Parliamentary Enquiry

I would like to please submit the attached.

- 1: 1 x word document - Submission to the Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Parliamentary Enquiry from Michelle Pears.
- 2: 17 x Historical and recent images of Long Bay & Stingaree Bay in Port Arthur. Images 16 & 17 are direct comparisons in the same location of before and after Fish Farms located back into Long Bay in 2017.
- 3: 1 x word document - Is it really OK? CMichelle Pears (I was driven to write this after seeing the effect the Salmon Farms have on the surrounding marine ecology on the Tasman Peninsular.)

Kind regards  
 Michelle Pears

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

- 1 - Swimming in Stingaree bay 2013
- 2 - Low tide in Stingaree 2013

- 3 - Healthy Seagrass in Stingaree Bay 2013
- 4 - Beach near Fox & Hounds 2013
- 5 - Kayaking in Stingaree 15.2.2014
- 6 - School of fish in clean healthy Stingaree Feb 2015
- 7- Long Bay behind Seascape 2016
- 8 - Lovely clean Stingaree before FishFarms
- 9 - Stingaree Bay Before fish farm
- 10 - 21.11.19 Stingaree Bay Beach looking out to mouth of Bay with TASSAL Fish Farm in distance
- 11 - Sludge in Stingaree Bay Feb 2019
- 12 - Stingaree Bay slimed up by FishFarm Feb 2019
- 13 - Struggling seagrass in Long Bay behind Seascape 20.11.19
- 14 - Algae choking seagrass in Long Bay looking to Port Arthur Lavender
- 15 - Choked seagrass 25.2.19
- 16 - Sandstone landmark Stingaree Bay 21.11.19
- 17 - Stingray near sandstone landmark Stingaree Bay Feb 2015

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26 November 2019

ATT: Mr. Stuart Wright  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliament House, HOBART, 7000  
[finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au)

## **Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Enquiry**

In reference to:

3) Any other matter incidental thereto.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this enquiry.

My name is Michelle Pears. I am Creator / Director of MAKEBELIEVE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT and have worked as a professional Children's Entertainer for 25 years. I am Vice- President of South East Arts, a founding member of Sorell On Stage (Community Theatre Group established in 2010 ), founding member of The Pittwater Photography Group (established in 2004), was awarded the Paul Harris Award by Sorell Rotary for my work in the Sorell Community and was nominated for Sorell Council 2018 Australia Day Award for Citizen of the Year.

For many years I have holidayed at my Brother-in-law's family property Molly's Manor that is situated on the banks of Long Bay and Stingaree Bay on the Tasman Peninsular. This farm property has been in their family for 6 generations. It is a beautiful spot. Our heart place. Our family swim, fish, kayak & enjoy watching the abundant marine & birdlife that live in these bays.

In 2017, after a hiatus of approximately 10 years, TASSAL moved their Salmon Pens back into Long Bay opposite the mouth of Stingaree Bay. We had heard from family members how in the 80's & 90's the farms were situated there and completely slimed up the bays. It took years and years for them to recover to its natural state. 2 years on this company has returned with a vengeance and we are now observing that our beautiful bays are struggling once again with Algae Growth choking the once lush seagrass beds and seaweeds. Brown silt covers the bottom of the bay. Slimy islands of green/yellow algae float in the sheltered areas of both Stingaree and Long Bay, especially behind Seascape and in front of the beaches that are usually enjoyed by the residents, weekenders & tourists at the Fox & Hounds. What must the tourists think of our so-called clean green state of our waterways?

Although TASSAL used to be one of my corporate clients (MAKEBELIEVE entertained at the TASSAL massive Christmas party put on for staff and their families for many years) I had to express my concerns to TASSAL in February 2019 and decided to distance myself from any future work with TASSAL due to what I witnessed happening on the Tasman Peninsular. My sister and I arranged to meet with them and take them to see for themselves the slimed up Stingaree Bay & small beach that backs onto Long Bay adjacent to the property next door called Seascape. A representative from TASSAL came out to kayak with us and we had deep discussions with them on the beach at Stingaree Bay and at another date in their Hobart Office. My sister has had further discussions with them since as well.

9 months later we feel our concerns are not being taken seriously. After our meetings, TASSAL agreed to do emergency monitoring but their monitoring areas are not in the locations we have expressed concern about. They have put their monitoring sites in well flushed areas, not in the sheltered locations we observe are gathering the high nutrients pouring from their pens and being pushed by the tides into the inner sheltered regions of Stingaree & Long Bays. (see report)

<https://epa.tas.gov.au/Documents/Annual%20BroadScale%20Monitoring%20Report%20for%20the%20Tasman%20Peninsula%20and%20Norfolk%20Bay%20Marine%20Farming%20Development%20Plan.pdf>

Long Bay and Stingaree Bay are home to important Seagrass Meadows. Seagrass acts like the lungs of the ocean but our observations are that they are choking on the effluent being discharged out of these pens. It is an awful thing for us to watch. TASSAL have not been transparent in the information we have asked for, particularly the amount of fish that were stocked in their pens from Aug 2017 until January 2019. Nor will they divulge how many Salmon escaped from their pens in Long Bay in 2018. They have been slow moving to answer our requests for information regarding monitoring for water quality.

Unfortunately, our family do not have the funds to conduct monitoring ourselves to prove the high amount of nutrients being deposited into the bays by the TASSAL salmon pens. We feel it should not be our role to prove this as it should be heavily regulated by Government anyway and overseen by an independent environmental protection agency that is not influenced by profit. We feel there needs to be total transparency regarding this industry.

My hopes are that the Parliamentary Enquiry will determine that the salmon Open Pen System, where the waste from these pens are distributed directly into the local waterways, has severe detrimental effects to the marine ecology in their location and surrounds as we have observed in Stingaree and Long Bays.

Since sharing our story, we have heard from divers and kayakers in other communities, particularly Snug, Nubeena, Kettering & Macquarie Harbour observing the same thing has happened in their waterways.

This morning I kayaked with my sister in Stingaree Bay and Long Bay. It was a beautiful calm morning which was lucky for us because we were there to take photos and videos of the bays. As they say... A picture tells a thousand words. Please take the time to view the attached images of before and after the TASSAL fish farm moved back in.

Apart from the TASSAL pens moving back in, to our knowledge there have been no other developments in the area. Wanting to be sure, we questioned all the surrounding businesses, and all were adamant that nothing has changed in the conduct of their businesses that would affect the bay in the past 2 years.

It seems too much of a coincidence that the same thing happened last time the Salmon Farms were situated here. From the family's historical observations and knowledge, we feel 100% that the evidence is there for all to see – that the TASSAL Open Pen Fish Farms are the cause of the degradation of Stingaree & Long Bays. I decided I could no longer do business with a company that could degrade the marine environment in such a way.

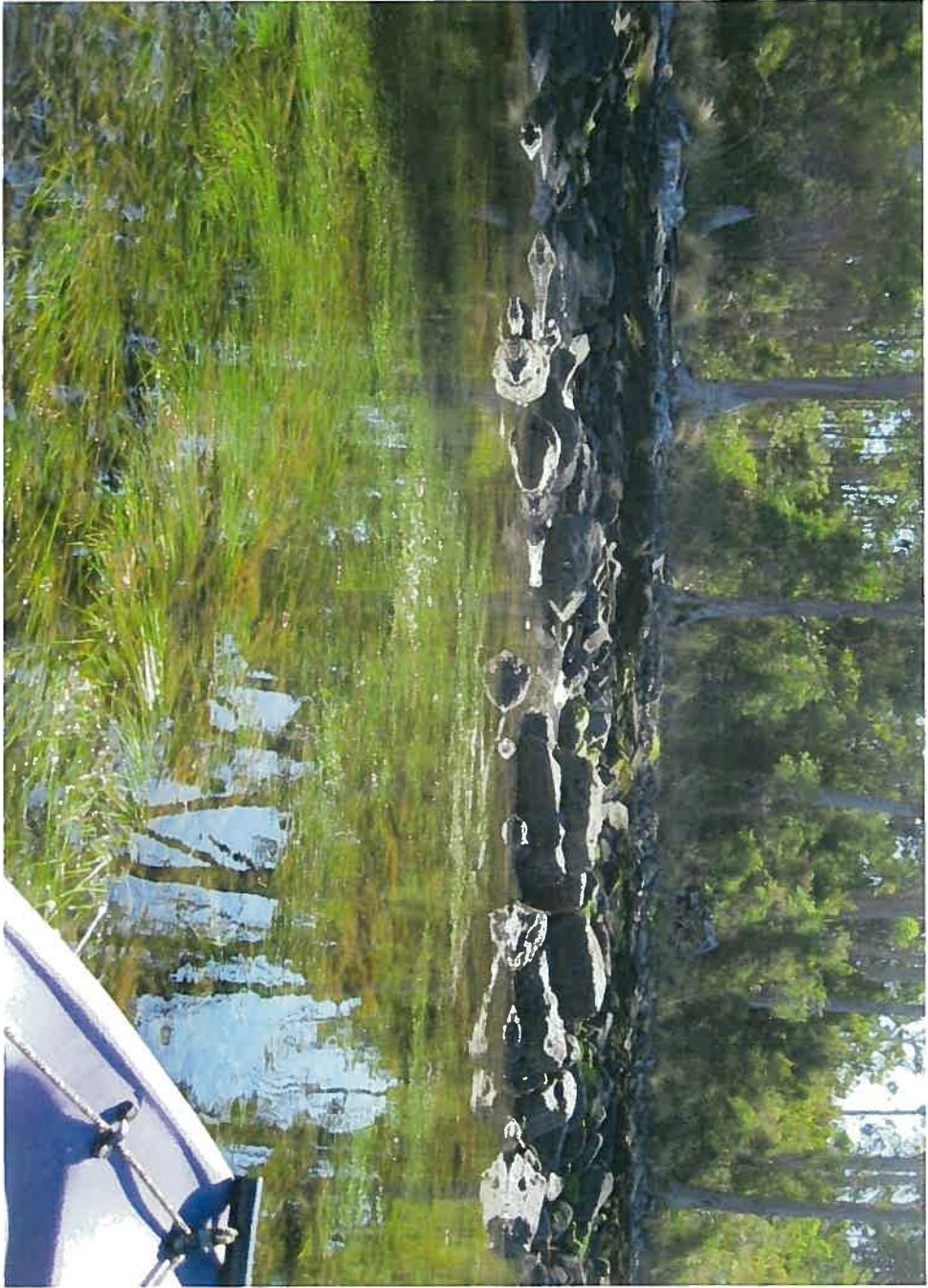
As someone who cares deeply for the marine environment in our State, I call for a Moratorium on the Salmon Farm Industry. I feel it needs to be halted until more scientific studies are done on the effect of Open Pen Salmon Farming to delicate marine environments such as Stingaree & Long Bays.

I hope my story will be heard and I am happy to take anyone interested to the area and show them the evidence that is there for all to see.

Regards  
Michelle Pears





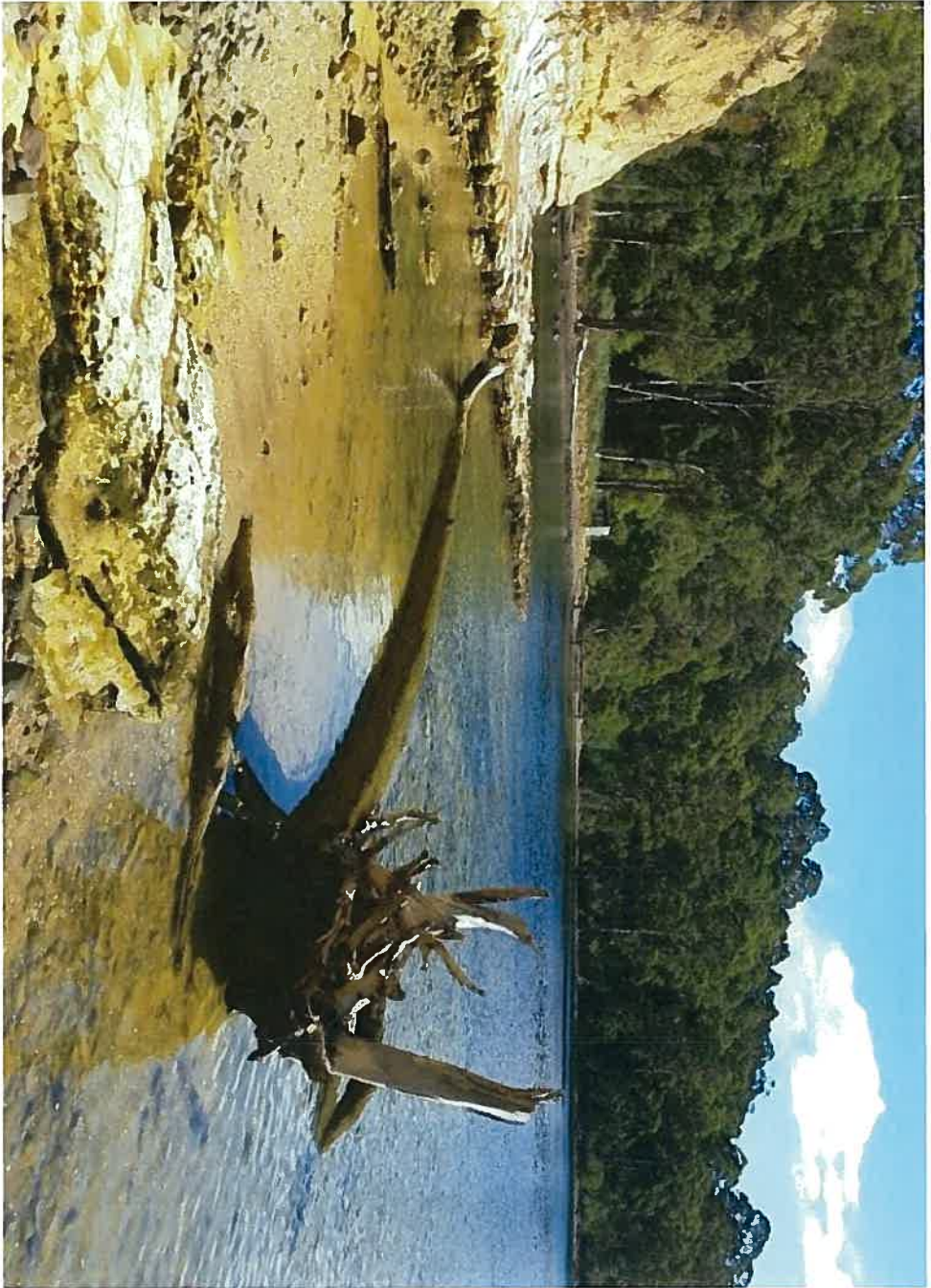












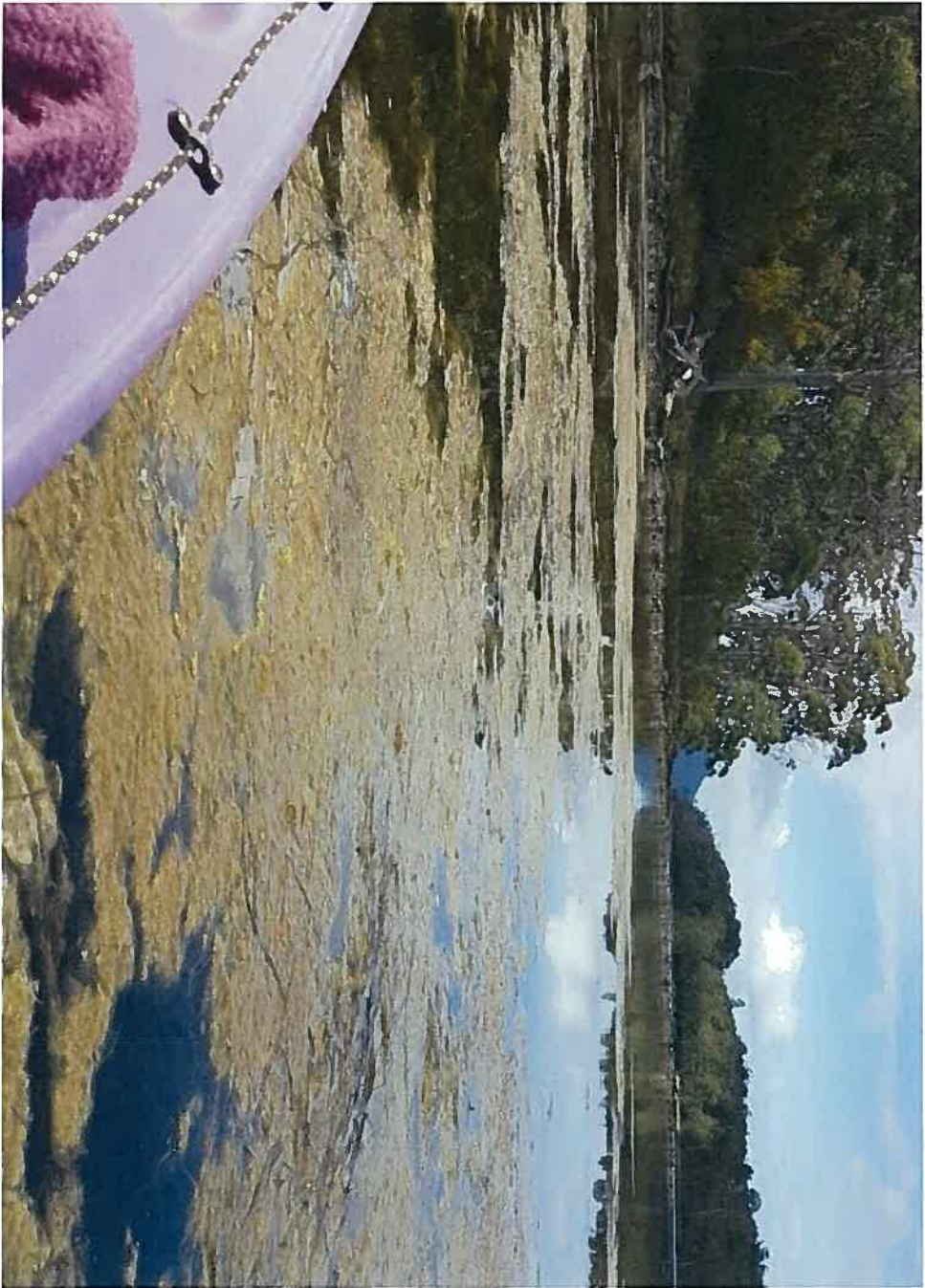


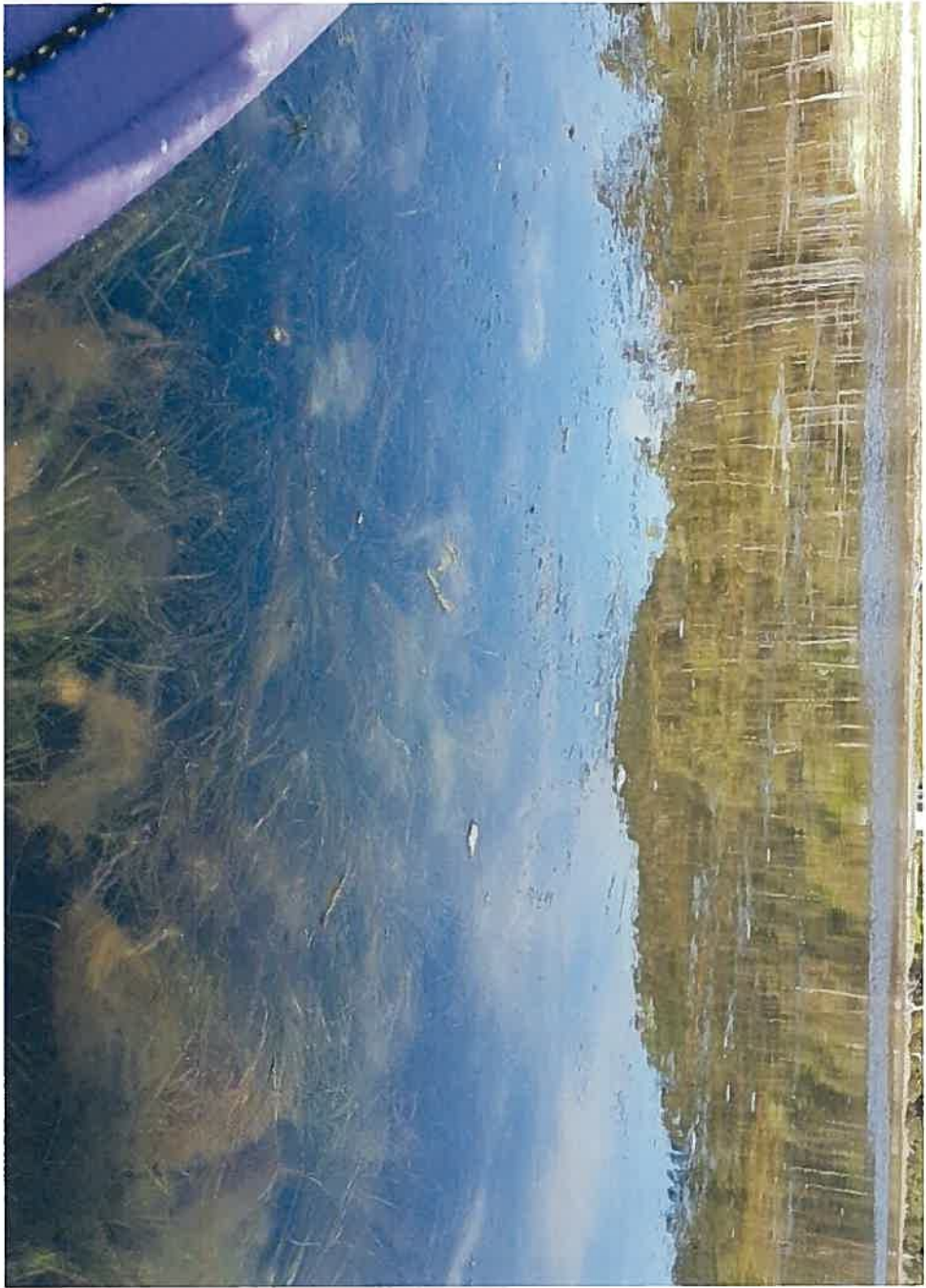






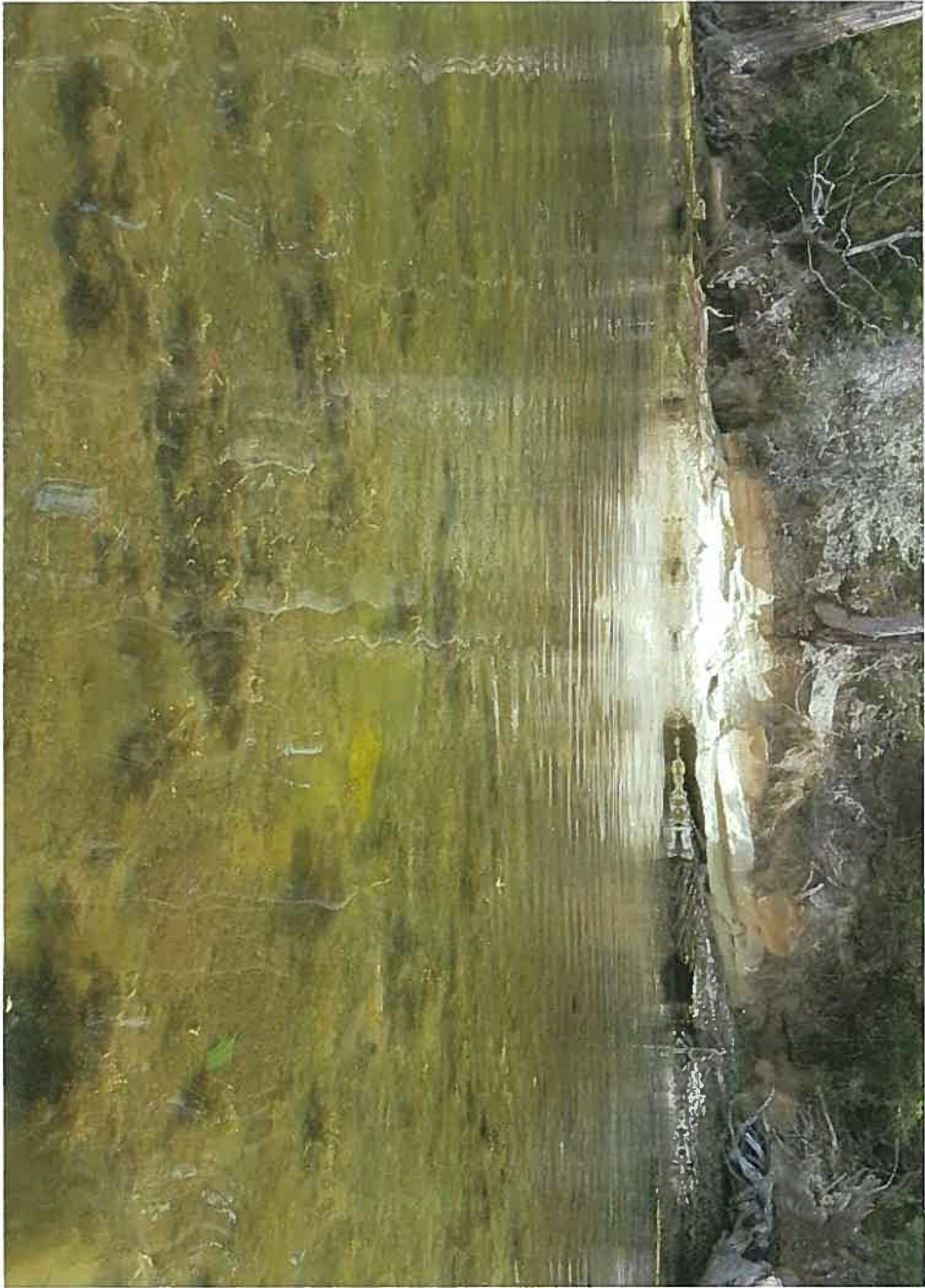


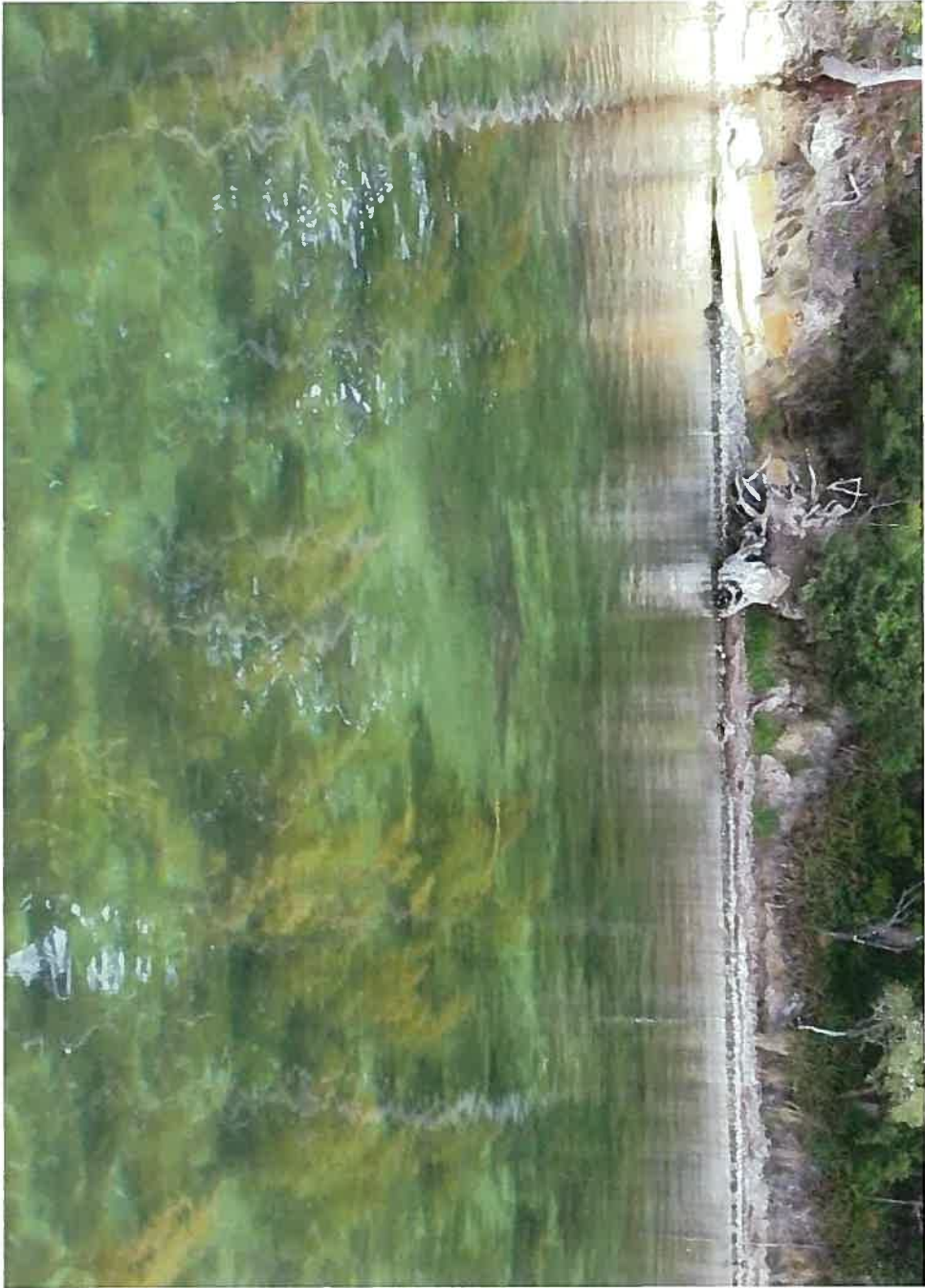












## Is it really OK?

©Michelle Pears 18.2.19

Is it really OK that you've slimed up our BAY?  
It's left me a crying. The Sea Grass is dying.  
Is it OK for you that it's filled up with poo?  
Is it really OK that you've slimed up our BAY?

Like a thick soup it clings to the rocks and all things  
The beach is now gross and what gets me the most  
Is the film on the surface shines bright like a circus  
Is it really OK that you've slimed up our BAY?

I can't stand about and watch it die out  
As it chokes from the slime, to me it's a crime  
Nature's balance is gone. Surely.... Isn't that wrong?  
Is it really OK that you've slimed up our BAY?

We can't swim here anymore, too much gunk on the shore.  
The kids all complain. For them it's a shame.  
Slippery boards, Stinky... YUCK! Is it just our bad luck?  
Is it really OK that you've slimed up our BAY?

They say your pockets are deep but I couldn't sleep  
If I left this unsaid soon the BAY will be dead  
I'm not a lone voice. We all have a choice.  
Bury our heads in the sand or all make a stand  
Let's all ask the question..  
Is it really OK that you've slimed up our BAY?