

Allison Waddington

From: Bob Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2019 9:25 PM
To: FinFish
Subject: Inquiry.

Dear Secretary and Members,

As a resident of Randalls Bay beside the Huon River, I draw you attention to the following impacts of fish pens and attendant shipping in the river and D'Entrecaseaux Channel's environment and ecological system:

1. Visual. I am a photographer but can take no sellable photographs of the natural beauty of this riverine region because of the dominant intrusion of fish farming infrastructure. This includes at night when the lights from fish farming make useful photographing of the *Aurura Australis*, for example, impossible. Every fish farm emplacement removes that beautiful site from Tasmania's fame for its natural scenery. The fish farm companies pay no compensation for this real loss to everyone else.
2. Noise and light from the movement of the many vessels of Huon Aquaculture and Tassal intrudes into households and properties right along the river. No compensation is paid for this industrial intrusion into previously quiet, unpolluted rural communities.
3. Rubbish. Tonnes of rubbish from fish farms wash up on shores both sides of the river and channel. Some pieces are a hazard to boating. There is a large unpaid service by local residents in removing this rubbish. All plastics used in marine farm operations should, by law, be marked and penalties applied if these are strewn beyond the licensed premises. Storms in the last decade show that dangerous fish farm infrastructure, inadequately secured, can break free and contaminate sea lanes or wash ashore. See this photograph of a Huon Aquaculture gas cylinders (marked 'do not drop or handle roughly') washed ashore over rocks at Randalls Bay in 2010.



4. Ecosystem destruction. The Randalls Bay and lower Huon natural fishery has been destroyed by the aquaculture industry and no compensation paid. No baseline studies were done to measure this destruction despite the chair of the Marine Farming Planning Review Panel asserting, in session, that the government had done such studies. A challenge to the chair to provide information backing his assertion has not been answered because no such study was ever done.

5. Wildlife impact. The Senate inquiry into aquaculture was told that Tassal had killed hundreds of cormorants. Is this so? In 2009 it was reported that Huon Aquaculture had interred a number of seals. Is this so? If so, what police action was taken?

6. Cetaceans protection. In recent years there is direct evidence of whales re-entering the river and channel, including to calve. This should require latest tethering and rigging technology to ensure against snaring.

Northern hemisphere progress (eg in British Columbia) towards having all marine pens brought shore to be land-based while the marine ecosystems recover should be emulated in Tasmania where the state government puts such store in achieving 'world's best practice'.

My best wishes for this important inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Brown.

Former senator for Tasmania.

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Sent from my iPad