To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my delight at having a fin fish farming business in our local area. Having lived through the closure of the Triabunna chip mill, the Seafish plant and the algal bloom problems at Spring Bay Mussels it has been a Godsend to have a constant reliable employer in the town. The flow on effect to the local economy and the effect on people's well being has been amazing.

As patron of the Suicide prevention network, I have witnessed first hand the positive effect that employment has created in the town. The strict drug and alcohol policies have also had a very positive affect on some of the more vulnerable who now have meaningful employment. Besides this the support shown to our organisation in sponsorship has enabled us to supply life alarms to a number of elderly and vulnerable. These have been a life changing device for a number of people in the region.

As a past president of the Junior football club, it's not just the sponsorship but the fact that fly in fly out parents are now home at night with their families. This has given security to children, volunteers for the club as well as enabling us to have the cheapest enrolment in the league.

I am also a member of Rotary and the assistance of Tassal in supplying fish for us to raise money to donate to numerous causes has been greatly appreciated, I know the same is done for a number of other organisations including both Triabunna and Orford schools.

The Nippers surf life saving club and the local Orford pony club are two other organisations I am involved with which have benefited from Tassal support.

It is not however the sponsorship that is the major benefit to the area but the long term substantial jobs. This has created a lift in business confidence in the area not seen for a decade. The local mechanic now has two additional employees, another electrician has moved to the area and a builder is impossible to get. Students from Triabunna school now see a career path and a future on the coast, not just in fin fish farming, but in the other industries that are benefiting from the increased spending locally. I have been doing interviews at the local schools for a bursary for a number of years, and have seen a marked change in attitude and confidence.Families who were initially opposed to the industry, now have family members working in it and are their biggest supporters. They now see the scare tactics by some, of destruction of our beaches and environment were just that, scare tactics. The level of scrutiny on the industry is incredibly high, and in my opinion this gives us all confidence in the industry having a strong sustainable future on the coast, creating a future for our families, children and communities groups.

Thank you the Fin Fish Industry !

Regards

