

GAA/FIN 126

Tomas Najman

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29 November 2019

Mr Stuart Wright  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliament House, HOBART 7000  
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Submission to Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A -Sub-Committee - Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry

Dear Mr Wright

As a long time surfer and diver around Tasmania I have seen not just environmental degradation due to inshore salmon farms but also a diminishment of the cultural and societal benefits of uninterrupted coastline. Some of my favourite surf spots now have big salmon pens visible from the water, in places that once felt like they were tucked away from humanity. I have seen waste from the fish farms on my local beaches. And I have seen the mechanical debris left behind after storms.

It was the mismanagement of Tassal in Okehampton bay that drove me into a degree of marine science over 3 years ago. Now I'm in my 3rd year at IMAS. I have learned not only the impacts salmon farming has on the regions, but also the benefits and ways of addressing the issues. However I still believe more must be done to minimise the impacts. Even if ecological and environmental issues can be addressed, the simple fact remains that sometimes, people do not want these pens in their back yard. And as far as I'm concerned, that is as good an excuse as any. We grew up looking on an empty horizon, surfing pristine beaches, and diving on clear sand bottomed shores. Alternatives exist. We need to use them.

I endorse the following recommendations by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust 1. Complete independent water quality and environmental studies, before any environmental licences are issued (not an "adaptive management" approach)., 2. Environmental licences must set a hard cap on biomass and dissolved nitrogen and other pollutants emitted into our waterways from pens, hatcheries and other infrastructure., 3. Require all licences and licence amendments (marine and land based) to be referred to the EPA board so that the community can have a say., 4. Commission an independent review of the Marine Farming Planning Review Panel, focusing on its membership, governance and ties to industry., 5. Improve transparency and enforcement by prosecuting fish escapes, fish kills, marine debris and seal and cetacean interactions., 6. Mandate public reporting for disease outbreaks and other bio-security incidents., 7. Amend the Marine Farming Planning Act to require valuation and protection of social, recreational and visual amenity; and consideration of noise impacts on surrounding residents.

Regarding public hearings, I would like more information from the secretary about opportunities to present to the committee.

Tomas Najman

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Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely

Tomas Najman