

GAA/FIN 131

Eleanor Laud

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

My recommendations include the following:

- That a natural values assessment of Storm Bay be mapped and considered in developing and assessing the Management Control measures
- That documented learning by industry operators and government from the major May 2018 weather event be thoroughly reviewed in relation to infrastructure failure and preventative measures
- Best practice lessons learned from the industry's expansion into Macquarie Harbour be reviewed, understood and implemented in Storm Bay and in the development of Management Control measures
- That a detailed biogeochemical model upon which to determine carrying capacity and nutrient transfer with the lower Derwent Estuary be developed
- Dissolved and solid nitrogen pollution controls be determined and mitigation measures developed in conjunction with the Derwent Estuary Program
- Marine Farming Review Panel (MFRP) to include a community representative and an independent marine scientist
- Future lease applications, renewals and expansions reviewed by MFRP in public hearings
- Establishment of fish farming compliance officers to oversee the industry's activities
- Marine debris enforcement of penalties for the equipment, fish and materials lost from lease areas into open waters (noting Will Hodgman MP zero tolerance approach to marine debris)
- Employment of The Commonwealth Blue Charter principles by industry operators
- Whale proof netting incorporated into pen design
- GPS locators on larger infrastructure
- Identifiable or colour coded netting, ropes, pipework specific to each industry operator

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- Consideration of the classification of individual pens as autonomous marine vessels
- Review the appropriateness and safety of the use of firecrackers in seal management
- Independent review of environmental impact statements submitted with Marine Farming Development Plans (MFDP)
- Independent review of biosecurity plans MFDP
- Components of pens be logged for traceability in the event of breakup in weather events
- Lease condition enforcement
- Records of training and accreditation of personnel in relation to marine safety and fish health be submitted with MFDP.

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.

Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely

Eleanor Laud