

GAA/FIN 137

Bruce Blackie

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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

I purchased my house 13 years ago overlooking Long Bay where the Port Arthur Tassal fish farm has recently been reinstated after closing down a decade earlier. Since reinstatement we have put up with noise, foul smell and visual pollution (day and night) and have noted a precipitous decline in recreational fishing in the area.

I do not know enough about other sites but the Tassal nets in Port Arthur are completely inappropriate for a small bay surrounded with high value ecological and visitor accommodation attractions. Visitors known to me from interstate have commented on the noise and the smell spoiling the quality of their visit.

The bay is also frequently visited by large cruise boats and I can only guess how the presence of the fish farm detracts from the visitor's experience. These boats stress the natural environment which is already stressed by the fish farm. The fish farm is also apparently commercially nonviable given the size limitations from lack of flushing at the top of Long Bay.

I would like to see the Tassal fish farm facility at Port Arthur shut down completely and the environment restored to its natural balance for the sake of the wildlife and the enjoyment of visitors and locals rather than being spoiled for the sake of dubious commercial returns to absentee shareholders of one company without affecting jobs which could easily be transferred to more viable sites.

Generally I also support all the recommendations provided below.

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., 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.

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Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely

Bruce Blackie