

GAA/FIN 151

matthew mackay

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Mr Stuart Wright
Inquiry Secretary
Parliament House, HOBART 7000
finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au

Submission to Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A -Sub-Committee - Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry

Dear Mr Wright

I'm only recently moved to the tasman peninsula from mornington peninsula in Victoria but have always a strong connection/relationship with the marine environment as a surfer/diver and passionate environmentalist. I'm also acutely aware of the threats facing our fragile marine environment having worked closely with Clean Ocean Foundation to help close the ocean outfall at Gunnamatta beach which was was not only having detrimental impact on the marine environment but also posed health risk to the ocean users in the area. Of course this was different cause but similarly these large scale commercial fish farms also pose an unacceptable risk to the fragile marine environment and need much greater scrutiny and monitoring to help reduce/mitigate those risks because once the damage has been done it's very difficult to reverse it.

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
matthew mackay