

GAA/FIN 158

John Kelsall

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[REDACTED]  
29 November 2019

Mr Stuart Wright  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliament House, HOBART 7000  
[finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto: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 am a coastal Geomorphologist.

But I love my fish and the quality and heritage of the Tasmanian fishing Industry.

I Am hoping that the stupidity of allowing a valuable local resource be compromised by the short term greed and short sighted economics of Companies who have little regard for any environmental values or any long term regard for a very valuable resource.

They are trying to blind people with glossy brochures about what a great boon their industry is for the Tasmanian people and how sustainable it is.. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is just models with young smiling faces conning the public perspective of what really is a polluting and dirty industry.

If We really care about the economic future of this state, then a rush for short term gains by people who never live in the places they wreck should be stopped.

I have a personal gripe about the 'scientific' studies that were quoted on the huge deep water proposal for Wedge Island.

As all scientists know, studies on wave train models in Norwegian fiords and sheltered bays in Japan have little relevance for local waters.

At least an independent study conducted by qualified Tasmanians....which also might help train future Oceanographers or Geomorphologists should be conducted.

Visually too this wonderful vista of Wedge Island will be lost to all admirers.

Given the current interest in Tasmania being the 'clean and green' economic model and tourism employing many more people than any fish farm will ever do, rampant fish farming will turn out to be another mistake in the order of drowning Lake Pedder or the Franklin River.

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If you examine how Strahan has benefited from a wise decision to preserve the Franklin, then it becomes clear that jeopardizing the local fishing and scenic beauty of Tasmania and its image around the world would be tragic.

I hope sense prevails and this never ending expansion of Fish farms will stop.

Kind regards

John Kelsall.

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.

Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely

John Kelsall