

GAA/FIN 159

Terence Brumby

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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

May I ask the question, is the Tasmanian community being adequately reimburse for the use of our brand , loss of public amenities, and degradation of natural resources by the salmonoid aquaculture industry?

The Tasmanian Agrifood Score Card Snap Shot 2017 /2019 published by DPIPWE states a gross food value of \$838 million from the salmonoid sector, but what proportion of this figure is returned for the benefit of the Tasmanian community. The recent report from the Australia Institute, Mountains Out Of Minnows, (Leanne Minshull and Bill Browne), compiled from numerous reports and studies including those commissioned by the industry itself, conclude that the state and its people is being used and abused for very little benefit.

Examining the statistics of the last Australian Census 2018 by local government it is evident that aquaculture is not the silver bullet for regional employment that these companies and government consistently repeat. Apart from the Huon Valley LGA for which offshore caged aquaculture was listed as the major employer with 322 employees, in all other LGA areas where aquaculture is located eight occupation classes were listed in descending figures without noting aquaculture. These are regions where the industry promote themselves are significant employers.

In my own area, the Tasman Peninsular where the census recorded 370 full time and 371 part time workers in total, figures provided by Tassal as of 17th October 2019, stated 53 employees, 6 of these positions will be relocated to support the well ship and only 28 of the remainder are resident on the peninsula.

Quoting from Mountains Out Of Minnows” , The salmon industry is the 40th largest sector by employment in Tasmania, employing fewer than car repairs or child care. It employs about 1,500 people, or 0.6% of total employment in the state. “

In The Sustainable Industry Growth Plan For The Salmon Industry at point 16 (Further investment in developing the skills and career paths industry needs:) the responding action is :

The salmon companies have also developed [programs with education providers such as UTAS and local high schools in regional areas to give more students chance to understand employment opportunities within industry

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In an industry which is progressing towards massive expansion and touting efficiencies through technology and innovation the workforce will not increase proportionately and therefore the insurgence into schools and communities is about buying social license and not creating legitimate career pathways. I believe that if not for the requirements of industry and external quality assurance compliance, required for access to markets nationally and internationally, the general communities concerns would be treated with utter contempt. For these reasons I consider their campaigns to infiltrate communities by marketing the perception of being good corporate citizens is both divisive and cynical. In the absence of an equitable legislative framework by which the state is adequately paid royalties the companies are effectively writing their own script of how, why, when, and how much they grant to whom.

I totally blame successive government from the past for allowing the situation to come to this point. It is but the current chapter in a history of this state's inferiority complex and willingness to grovel and scrape to any shonky salesman who happens to knock on the door, only to be promised the world and then given an atlas.

I recommend the establishment of an independent review of all legislation whereby the state and local government can charge license and rate changes that would determine fair values

I recommend the establishment of an independent review where the cost benefit analysis of accommodating the aquaculture industry in all aspects is considered and those values legislated and imposed through license's levy's and rates of state and local government bodies in lieu of the existing community grants process.

Thank you for reviewing my submission

Yours Sincerely
Terence Brumby