

GAA/FIN 173

Rohan Pace

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Mr Stuart Wright
Inquiry Secretary
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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 am 30 years old and have lived on the South Arm peninsular for approximately 20 of those years, I currently live in Lauderdale. I have grown up surfing/diving/sailing all over Southern Tas and have seen first hand the coastal and underwater environments change from a number of factors whether it be storms, bushfires, overfishing and salmon farms. Our coastal waters are in an extremely vulnerable state from climate change pressures, mainly the warming of Tasmanian waters. Additional stresses added by industrial fish farming will greatly effect these ecosystems to recover and could result in major loss of biodiversity.

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
Rohan Pace