

GAA/FIN 180

Jeremy Willson

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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

As a surfer, swimmer and diver I regularly use these waterways and are seriously concerned about the proposed fish farm leases as it will continue to pollute the water ways and cause more marine debris that will inevitably harm the surrounding sensitive ecosystems and peoples enjoyment of these areas. Snorkelling in the D'entrecasteaux channel proves this as a layer of silt has developed on the sea floor and kelp recently in the last 7 years due to rapid expansion of salmon leases and can only be due to the increased fish excrement. Because of the environmental impacts and miniscule amounts they pay for the lease I strongly resist the proposed leases.

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

Jeremy Willson