

GAA/FIN 201

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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 an avid surfer and spend hours in the ocean every week. I have already been effected by seeing the damage caused by existing fish farms on the way to Roaring Beach at Nubeena, as well as seeing the devastation to the eco system caused in Macquarie Harbour and Franklin areas. I understand that farming salmon is perhaps necessary for jobs and growth etc but not at the expense of our natural resources which is largely our clean green image. I also understand how little the government is charging these farms to operate, which should be a lot more and that money should be used to help the communities around these farms. I also hope that each company has to be more responsible for their waste, as I am sick of seeing it in the surf and on our beaches!

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
Josh Overgaauw