

GAA/FIN 212

Carmel French

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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

As a former yacht owner and now kayaker I have been horrified to watch the devastation of our anchorages and waterways. Every time my husband and I go out in our kayak we literally fill the hatches with rubbish from fish farms in the vicinity. This is a shocking situation and is worsening as the fish farms spread into even more pristine areas. They are destroying our environment and are out of control! The waters belong to all Tasmanians so this government needs to stop gifting them to the rich and privileged.

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  
Carmel French