

# HUON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT GROUP INC.

Supporting resource-based industries in the Huon region, and the residents who depend upon them

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## Submission to the Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry, 2019, by the Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A, from the Huon Resource Development Group Inc.

November 2019

To: Hon Kerry Finch MLC, Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, Hon Mike Gaffney MLC, Hon Sarah Lovell MLC, Hon Rob Valentine MLC and Hon Meg Webb MLC (Inquiry Chair)

### Executive Summary

- The Huon Resource Development Group considers this inquiry to be a waste of Parliamentary Resources and is politically motivated against the people and communities that depend upon the Fin Fish Farming Industry;
- The implementation of the Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the Salmon Industry was brought about only after a full and transparent public consultation process to support the growth of the salmon industry based on recent changes to environmental regulations covering the industry;
- The Plan is a living document, reflecting continuous improvement. It was reviewed after one year, and will be reviewed thereafter every two years. Information on the progress of the Plan is published by the State Government;
- The salmon industry remains an important social and economic contributor to Tasmania, providing thousands of jobs, many of which are in regional areas, and we will continue to support the sustainable growth of this industry; and
- The Growth Plan confirms the findings of the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Inquiry into the Regulation of the fin-fish aquaculture industry in Tasmania dated 21 August 2015.

**Preface:** The Huon Resource Development Group was formed in the year 2000 and seeks to make a submission to this highly political inquiry.

Our group has a focus of supporting resource-based industries and development applications in the Huon Valley and Tasmania based on the sound management of our natural resources. Our Mission Statement directs us to support progressive development in the Huon Valley through the democratic representation at all levels of Government ensuring a vibrant and sustainable community.

The Huon Valley has a proud tradition of sustainable management of our natural resources including agriculture, fishing and forestry.

The beginnings of our timber heritage is recorded as a back drop to the historical novel Hearts of Oak by Bill Leitch, and industry development generally followed that of the rest of the State as is recorded in the Australian Bureau of Statistics Tasmanian Year book of 2000<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2000, 1301.6 - Tasmanian Year Book, 2000 available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1301.6Main+Features12000?OpenDocument>

The feature article on the Tasmanian native forest industry in that edition shows a history of innovation and product development based upon our native timbers from residential and construction timber, industrial applications such as apple boxes, boat building and fine furniture to pulp and paper. More recently the website <https://tasmaniantimber.com.au/> is showing the full beauty and potential of Tasmania's timbers, as does the forestry and timber segment on the Brand Tasmania website: <https://www.brandtasmania.com/forestry-and-timber/> The same website showcases the farmed salmon industry as well as other species in aquaculture, and the wild fishery: <https://www.brandtasmania.com/seafood/>

Yet, despite its record of innovation, the region's timber industry has been beset by conflict as a result of the increasing political power of the environmental movement since the 1980's. This has manifested itself in a flurry of inquiries and 'agreements' starting with the Helsham inquiry and its overturning that resulted in a massive extension of the World Heritage Area, the Regional Forest Agreement and the latest Tasmanian Forest Agreement to replace it.

The political success of campaigns driven by The Greens and their associated groups have severely diminished the Huon Valley's timber industry, so it is with alarm that we are seeing the wedge politics, the wild accusations and the political grandstanding that so characterised the criticism of forestry being applied to the Tasmanian fin fish aquaculture industry. It appears history is now repeating itself with green groups threatening to use the tactics of market action, devaluing the companies' share price, boycotts, protests and sensational media stories as well as the use of political power and the special treatment that such groups enjoy under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act to take legal action that many believe is frivolous and vexatious.

This Legislative Council inquiry and the manner in which it was brought about gives the impression of an attempt to control yet another natural resource activity that should properly be the province of the elected State Government not an upper house that is set up to review legislation. Our members feel this inquiry is a waste of parliamentary resources, and in fact is an attempt to give undeserved legitimacy to some of the opinions and activities of individuals and groups to the green end of the political spectrum, and we believe this is reflected to some extent in the Members of the Legislative Council willing to participate in it, or to be willing to be seen to support it.

With the rise in environmental activism has come the phenomenon of organised groups with paid office-bearers who have a direct personal interest in creating and perpetuating conflict in our community. These groups function in accordance to a business model that is underpinned by constantly seeking donations, and maintaining membership subscriptions. They therefore have a personal monetary interest in keeping their membership motivated, and their public campaigns are often characterised by gross exaggeration and malicious untruthfulness.

We have seen some environmental activist organisations seek to function as an umbrella body, fostering and encouraging the creation of smaller, often single-issue groups, and these can rise and recede as needed, and occasionally shield parent groups from adverse criticism. We have seen many groups with individuals having common membership.

We have seen many groups taking advantage of the scope of activities permitted to registered environment groups, under federal legislation, which includes the scope to engage in secondary boycotts, which is something trade unions have been banned from doing for many decades.

We have seen them take advantage of, and frequently abuse the guidelines laid down in law for charities and not-for profit groups. Abusing those guidelines should disqualify them from having the tax status equal to that for charities, and many believe they should not have that status anyway.

The five biggest environmental organisations in Australia raise funds annually which when combined total almost \$100 million, and much of it is spent on activist campaigns that target resource-based industries. Many of them engage in 'lawfare', which can be described as vexatious litigation aimed at stopping or at least slowing down legitimate development proposals. This can include everything from planning appeals in local government to appeals to the Federal Court, and even the High Court. Within Tasmania the Bob Brown Foundation has been a prolific user of this tactic.

The former senator Bob Brown was instrumental in establishing The Wilderness Society in the 1970's, and it was a springboard for his political career, as well as for the Greens political party. More recently, and through the success of legal action, he established the Bob Brown Foundation, which engages in a range of activities, often where others are restrained, and itself has raised (declared) funds of almost one million dollars in a year. He has sponsored and supported other groups, and participated in their activities, including NOFF, or Neighbours of Fish Farming and Environment Tasmania, both of which have campaigned against the fin fish farming industry.

The Bob Brown Foundation has a category under Campaigns on its website menu entitled 'Stop the Fish Farm invasion' and from December 2012 until April 2014 the former senator Bob Brown was the Chairman of Sea Shepherd Australia, a branch of Sea Shepherd International, which was started by Captain Paul Watson. Indeed Watson has had the threat of legal action hanging over him internationally for what could be described as eco-terrorism, and was earlier credited for having reintroduced tree-spiking as a tactic used in anti forestry campaigns. Paul Watson is noted for campaigning against salmon farms, claiming "Our objective is to shut them down."<sup>2</sup>

Recently the Canberra-based think-tank The Australia Institute set up a branch office in Tasmania with a single employed researcher, Leanne Minshull, who had earlier relocated to the state from Melbourne. Leanne Minshull had earlier been intensively involved in activism against the timber industry, including lobbying to persuade banks, finance and investment houses to divest and abandon that industry. For her efforts she was listed as Defendant #4 in the Gunns 20 litigation. Leanne Minshull was the guest speaker at the 2017 AGM of NOFF, where she clearly supported the anti-aquaculture sentiment. That meeting, held in Cygnet, was chaired by Bob Brown, and the Greens MHA and member for Franklin, Rosalie Woodruff, was also present and significant in the discussions. The Australia Institute, (TAI), is a green-leaning think-tank, with most of its senior economists, researchers and office-holders having been former staffers to Greens senators Bob Brown and Christine Milne. It has often attacked resource-based industries with sophistry and dubious research methods and reporting that do not stand up to close scrutiny.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.intrafish.com/aquaculture/sea-shepherds-paul-watson-on-salmon-farms-our-objective-is-to-shut-them-down/2-1-711189?fbclid=IwAR3IANSdY5TvMSwWBfacvW-ikcAz5RtwesfCpDZDpsolUN7j3nslfOD6syY>

One of the favourite tricks used by TAI is to write down the number of employees in industries, usually by selectively quoting ABS employment statistics by limited categories, deliberately ignoring employment directly related in ancillary areas. In a piece of work published in July, 2019 on the Tasmanian salmon industry<sup>3</sup>, entitled 'Making mountains out of minnows', Minshull deliberately employed the same stunt, as follows: "Employment: 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." This was despite the sources of her information clearly indicating more than that figure, and mentioning the related employment. The current figures published by the Tasmanian Salmon Growers Association, (TSGA), show more than 2,290 direct employees within the three major companies, and associated employment in businesses supporting their activities of more than 6,000 employees.

Minshull's piece of work was a call for a significantly higher rate of taxes and charges to be levied on the salmon industry. However, a more accurate and fulsome assessment of the contribution to the economy by the salmon industry, including by related companies, contractors, and their employees, who are all taxpayers and contributors to GST through their spending, would be far higher than any green antagonist would ever like to admit.

It seems the most successful industry in Tasmania is the Protest Industry! Following the rise and success of the business model in the 'No Dams' movement, it was quickly realised that a transition to a new area of conflict was necessary, and attention was turned to the forest industry, specifically the issue of wood chipping. It was not long before other forest activities became targets, including harvesting of native forests, ultimately for any purpose, including saw milling, and more recently even the arts-based Special Timbers manufacturing sector. Having demonised hydro-electric power generation, and having demonised the timber industry, we are seeing various groups, and common personnel between them, transitioning to demonise the salmon farming industry.

The activism around the timber industry has recently been described by Mark Poynter as a 'flawed conservation culture' in his book Going 'Green'<sup>4</sup>, and he shows how it has even been delivering perverse environmental outcomes. Our members believe this should be essential reading for every politician, every business manager and every journalist currently working in resource-based industries in Tasmania, and indeed throughout the whole of Australia.

No broad scale human activity around resource-based industries can take place without generating at least some environmental impact. The issue is one of ensuring that any environmental impact of any activity is as minimal as it can be managed to be, and that it is within appropriately decided limits. This means that sufficient and comprehensive baseline data is available prior to developments or expansion, together with appropriate environmental priorities, (such as threatened or endangered species, or particular sensitivities), and that sufficient monitoring and adaptive management is undertaken, together with the enduring pursuit of constant improvement and progressive best practice.

Already the Government has committed to a review of The Plan after one year, and thereafter every two years. The one year report was only released in February this year and showed no need for such an inquiry. The one year review addressed the Plan's impact on commercial

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tai.org.au/content/making-mountains-out-minnows-salmon-tasmanian-economy>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au/GOING-%E2%80%98GREEN%E2%80%99-Forests-fire-and-a-flawed-conservation-culture--Mark-Poynter\\_p\\_180.html](https://www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au/GOING-%E2%80%98GREEN%E2%80%99-Forests-fire-and-a-flawed-conservation-culture--Mark-Poynter_p_180.html)

finfish farming operations and local communities, including: data collection and publication; and progress in the development of an industry wide biosecurity plan, two key terms of reference for this inquiry. Such duplication indicates the inquiry is nothing less than a Star Chamber.

The term Star Chamber was first applied when the mechanism was used by Henry V11 in 1487 in England. However, when it was used by Charles I to enforce unpopular political policies, it became a symbol of oppression. It was, therefore, abolished by Parliament in 1641. The HRDG used the term in reference to The Greens initiated Senate Inquiry into the Tasmanian aquaculture industry in 2015, which was seen as an inappropriate use of the resources of the senate, as it was focussed on a particular activity confined within one state, and internally managed. It is ironic that we now feel it necessary to again refer to a parliamentary initiative as a Star Chamber. If any member of this Inquiry Committee feels any aspect of the deliberations of this inquiry raises any concerns, or if there are issues with any recommendations, we would encourage and welcome the production of a dissenting report.

## Terms of Reference

*1) The implementation of the Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the Salmon Industry and its impact on commercial finfish farming operations and local communities, including: a. data collection and publication; b. progress in the development of an industry wide biosecurity plan;*

Members of the committee are invited to read the 1<sup>st</sup> year review of the Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the salmon industry available at

<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Salmon%20Plan%20-%20One%20Year%20Review.pdf>

There are 16 occasions of the word biosecurity in that review including a table of measures headed “Improving the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the industry’s environmental regulation, and the effectiveness of its biosecurity systems”. These address the Inquiry’s terms of reference.

*2) Application of the Marine Farming Planning Act 1995 relating to:*  
*a. preparation and approval process for marine farming development plans, including modifications and amendments to marine farming development plans;*  
*b. allocation of leases, applications for and granting of leases;*  
*c. management of finfish farming operations with respect to the prevention of environmental harm;*

The key pieces of State legislation are the Marine Farming Planning Act 1995 (MFPA), the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (EMPCA) and the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 (LMRMA).

- The primary decision makers are the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Board and Director. A critical advisory role in planning is played by the Marine Farming Planning Review Panel (the Panel).
- The MFPA establishes the planning framework:
- The overarching elements are new or amended marine farming development plans (MFDPs). There are currently 14 approved MFDPs.
- These cover specified areas and contain marine farming zones (MFZs) – each of which can be specified as suitable for certain activities. The commercially relevant types of farming currently allowed are for finfish, shellfish or seaweed. The potential uses reflect the environmental assessment of the sites, which underpins the planning process.

- Each MFZ has an identified maximum leasable area (which may be in more than one portion).
- The MFZs usually only make up a small fraction of the total area covered by an MFDP; the maximum leasable areas in turn make up a portion of each MFZ.

This is more than enough red and green tape to manage the industry. Any more regulation, including interference by the Legislative Council would stifle the industry and destroy jobs. As in the forest debacle operators would be forced to account for outrageous claims from so called green or environmental lobby groups.

Many of these groups do not have the expertise to be given the expert status so often attributed by the Media. The spokesperson for Environment Tasmania despite only having a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Political Science and Feminist Theory is often accorded the status of environmental expert in the public debate by the media.

Countering this local shrill and divisive voices, Tasmanian regulation has been so good that international environmental groups such as WWF have endorsed the Tasmanian operation of at least one company. In 2014 WWF congratulated Tasmanian salmon producer Tassal and its staff for becoming the first Australian producer of farmed seafood to achieve gold standard Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification. In 2017 WWF welcomed the increased transparency and access to information of the Tasmanian Government's Growth Plan. WWF endorsed the plan's calls for all Tasmanian salmon farmers to be certified by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council; the impacts of multiple salmon farmers operating in one area to be minimised; and no-go zones for aquaculture to be established to protect Tasmania's marine environment.

With the release of the 1<sup>st</sup> Year review WWF-Australia announced expanding its approach to sustainable aquaculture and marine conservation in Tasmania by deepening its engagement with aquaculture companies, government, scientists and stakeholders. This is a very different approach than the Greens, Environment Tasmania and Neighbours of Fish Farms led by perennial protester Bob Brown.

The other fish farmer in the Valley was the first salmon producer in Australia to achieve the internationally recognised Global G.A.P. certification meeting the very high standards set by Global G.A.P.

The Global G.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance Standard – Aquaculture– is a pre-farm gate standard that covers the whole production process of the certified product from the hatchery until the point of harvest and packing.

The Global G.A.P standard not only audits Huon's operations but also those of companies that supply it, thus a rigorous and thorough assessment of the entire process of farming and growing salmon.

The Tasmanian Industry and the State Government supports the monitoring and ongoing management of current salmon farming operations in Tasmania. This is to ensure current monitoring practices are adequate, and to make recommendations for improvement where necessary. A major focus will be to assess recovery of the Trumpeter lease in Storm Bay, following its de-stocking in mid-2019.

There has also a review of the data collected through the Macquarie Harbour Environmental Monitoring Program (MHEMP) and this will also be completed in 2019. The review looks at the MHEMP data in the context of all other available information for the system.

The environmental responses to salmon farming, and the role that science is playing in determining the level of farming will ensure that it is ecologically sustainable in the harbour into the future.

Other reports of interest include:

- [Environmental Research in Macquarie Harbour FRDC 2016/067: Understanding oxygen dynamics and the importance for benthic recovery in Macquarie Harbour \(Dec 2018\) - \(PDF File 5.5 MB\)](#)

- [Huon Estuary/DEntrecasteaux Channel nutrient enrichment assessment: Establishing the potential effects of Huon Aquaculture Company P/L nitrogen inputs \(Mar 2018\) - \(PDF File 9.8 MB\)](#)
- [Environmental Research in Macquarie Harbour. Progress Report: FRDC 2016/067: Understanding oxygen dynamics and the importance for benthic recovery in Macquarie Harbour \(Oct 2017\) - \(PDF File 2.6 MB\)](#)
- [Environmental Research in Macquarie Harbour Interim Synopsis of Benthic and Water Column Conditions \(Feb 2017\) - \(PDF File 3.7 MB\)](#)
- [Understanding the Ecology of Dorvilleid Polychaetes in Macquarie Harbour \(Oct 2016\) - \(PDF File 3.6 MB\)](#)
- [Assessment of the environmental impacts and sediment remediation potential associated with copper contamination from antifouling paint \(and associated recommendations for management\) \(May 2014\) - \(PDF File 3.0 MB\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Broadscale Environmental Monitoring Program \(BEMP\) data from 2009-2012 \(Dec 2013\) - \(PDF File 4.1 MB\)](#)
- [Long-term Recovery – Review of sediment condition at Marine Farm lease No.76 \(Gunpowder Jetty\), North West Bay \(Apr 2013\) - \(PDF File 612.0 KB\)](#)

In 2019–20 domestic production of salmon is forecast to be \$862 million (in 2018–19 dollars). Tasmania accounts for over 99% of total Australian salmonid production. Rapid growth of the Tasmanian industry since the early 1990s has been underpinned by successful marketing campaigns promoting domestic consumption of salmonid products. Per person consumption of salmonids increased from 0.8 kilograms per person in 1998–99 to around 2.1 kilograms per person by 2016–17. Will the Inquiry consider the health benefits of this change in diet?

Up to 2023/24, the farmed salmon industry is expected to step up production further, expanding into new lease areas covered by the Plan. By 2023–24 Australian salmonid production is forecast to increase to 71,061 tonnes, with a projected gross production value of \$898 million (in 2018–19 dollars). This increase is expected to be achieved mainly through production growth.

Domestic farm gate prices for salmonids are likely to trend lower over this period, in line with lower projected international prices. With such pressure the workers and their families that depend on the industry do not need unnecessary inquiries or political stunts about their industry.

### *3) Any other matter incidental thereto.*

The Tasmanian Salmon Industry:

- 2,290+ direct FTE jobs
- 6,000+ indirect FTE jobs
- The largest fishery in Australia
- The largest Tasmanian farming activity
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As can be seen the 2,290 direct jobs is only the tip of the iceberg in the State and Huon in particular, there are people doing research, people supplying feed, people transporting inputs and outputs. Contractors that are building houses for staff. Building the processing sites and the hatcheries and the farms. Businesses supplying goods and services direct to the farmers and to their work force.

Some criticisms have recently been made that the aquaculture companies are moving towards automation of many functions, such as delivering feed into pens, and there may be a lesser expansion of jobs along with the projected increase in salmon production, however the adoption

of such technology is not as bad as some would suggest, and in fact, it is necessary, desirable, and provides opportunities for higher paid jobs. As such technology spreads through many other sectors, including agriculture, there is a growing need for the supply and servicing of the associated hardware, software and the training needs, and often this gives a boost to existing businesses in those fields, and even causes new businesses to start. The salmon aquaculture industry has already shown that it has caused related businesses to become established, as it is an industry that has a high level of external inputs costing many millions of dollars.

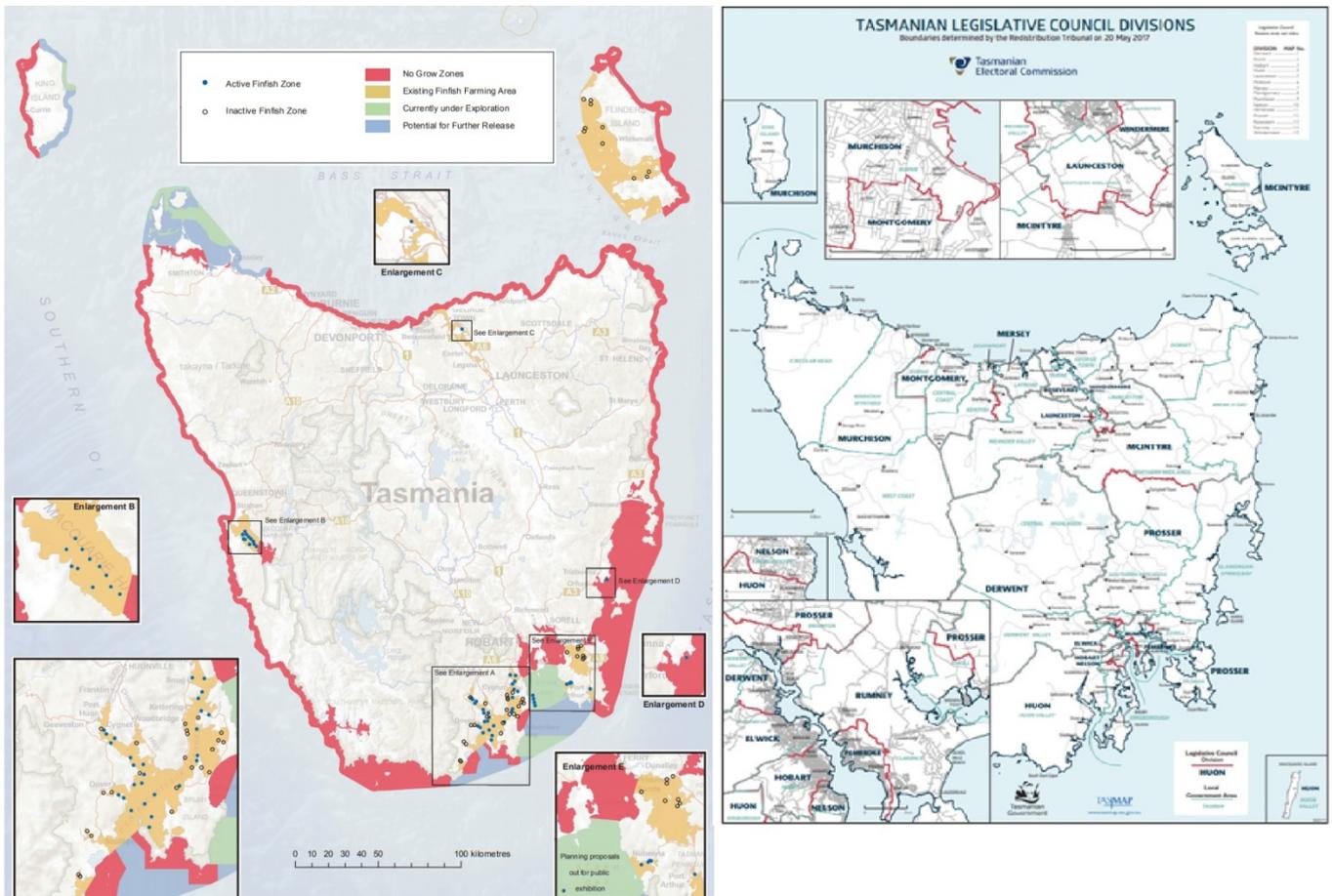
With the destruction of jobs in the timber industry through the secondary boycott campaigns of green groups, displaced timber workers have seen the Aquaculture industry as a source of alternate employment, and indeed a number of workers at the Okehampton Bay site are former forest industry workers. Other opportunities suggested or promised by timber industry antagonists have never eventuated, and the reported attitudes of workers in their new found employment would bring no joy to the political aspirations of those preferred by the antagonists. Forest Contractors have changed to civil engineering to maintain roads and infrastructure for the new industry. Log Truck drivers now service trucks in the Aquaculture industry.

Whilst the Huon Valley was promised jobs in tourism with the massive reservation of its forests, these have not eventuated, visitor rates to major attractions are falling, and overnight stays are a small percentage of visits by tourists. Our cafes and retail shops depend on the business generated by the fish farmers' workforce. The reputation of Tasmanian grown salmon that is sold throughout the nation is another reason for visitors to come to Tasmania to see for themselves our clean green and apparently pristine environment. The opportunity to grow a quality product in a pristine environment is one not lost on the aquaculture companies, and all are keen to be recognised for doing just that, and all fully understand the importance of being seen to be not doing anything other than that.

Members of the Group do acknowledge that there are concerns with a new industry, such as with other resource users, neighbours, communities and other individual businesses. However the Legislative Council Committee making hostile recommendations or increasing the regulatory weight on these companies is not a solution. In a discussion in recent days with an officer in the role of environmental assessment, one of our members was told that the scope, frequency and standard of the environmental monitoring around the proposed new \$46 million salmon hatchery in the Derwent Valley was of an intensity far greater than he would have expected, and far greater than he believes any other agricultural enterprise would ever be asked to apply!

The solution is better communication, with an obligation to engage on concerns, for the media to report fairly and without sensation, and for the genuine issues of stakeholders to be aired in community forums. In this way issues recently expressed by the abalone industry can be fixed, they may need help to sort out conflict but more regulation is not the answer. Similarly issues with transport, visual amenity and impact of recreational fisheries can be addressed within the existing regulatory frame work and growth plan, and with active participation with communities. The sector is building community partnerships, encouraging visitation and inspection of its facilities. The industry is regularly providing grants to community groups such as sporting bodies, education groups and those promoting real environmental outcomes. Thus it is important for the members of the Committee to be aware of the Industry in their electorates.

The following image shares the location of current fish farms and no go areas under the State Government's detailed sustainable industry growth plan for the salmon industry and puts alongside the location the Legislative Council's 15 electorates:



It is surprising that the Member for Prosser or the Member for Huon are not included in this Committee given the number of fish farms and facilities within those electorates to assist the Member for Murchison and the one fish farm on the boundary of Rosevears. It is requested that the Committee visit not only these farms but the industry facilities and support institutions and businesses in their electorates, such as the Petuna Factory in the division of Mersey, the head office of Huon Aquaculture in the seat of Hobart, to see its innovative IT infrastructure and monitoring, or in Nelson the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at Tarooma. This hub for IMAS Fisheries and Aquaculture program, with aquarium facilities, and the Institutes vessel fleet, are all located on-site. At the same time inspect IMAS/ Skretting's new \$6.5 million experimental aquaculture research facility, the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

In considering this relatively new industry, and recognising the total turnover of its operations, it is instructive to compare the total footprint of its marine leases and its onshore footprint with that of all other land-based agriculture and its turnover. It is quite notable. Therefore, an expansion in turnover together a modest increase in marine footprint should be evaluated with that in mind.

A trip to the Division of Elwick to visit the Prince of Wales boat building and pen manufacturers or a visit the Skretting factory in Cambridge in the Division of Rumney to find out why they were given the Tasmanian Employer of Choice award. Such visits add real meaning to the futures of the 8,300 Tasmanian workers and provide an opportunity to meet with real people rather than professional lobbyists whose businesses model is to vilify, create division and uncertainty and to delay investment in a bid to generate their own donations.

The Committee should also review the appropriateness of appointing Justice Debbie Mortimer to hear Bob Brown's appeal in *Triabunna Investments Pty Ltd v Minister for Environment and Energy* [2019] FCAFC 60. Mortimer had been Brown's Barrister in the *Wielangta* forest case against sustainable forestry which was thrown out by the Full federal Court, and many in the

community had a genuine apprehension of bias in this fish farming case by such a close former legal representative.

The Group believes that the current and future prospects of the fin fish farming industry in the Huon Valley depends on a positive report from this committee. We urge members to support the workers, families and communities that depend upon the fin fish farming industry. Such a commitment by the Legislative Council can provide the industry confidence to grow in the long term and to be able to accept opportunities that provide social, economic and environmental benefit.

The Group invites the committee to inspect the fish farms and the facilities mentioned to meet the workers and community leaders to hear first-hand their hopes and aspirations for their families and for a vibrant community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Harris', written in a cursive style.

George Harris,  
President  
Huon Resource Development Group Inc.  
November 2019

Cc Member for Huon, Member for Prosser, Member for Elwick