



Your Ref: MP09_0088

6 June 2013

Sarah Waterworth
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Waterworth

Re: Environmental Assessment for Concept Plan Approval – Mixed Use Subdivision, West Culburra (MP09_0088)

I refer to the above application relating to the proposed development of a mixed use subdivision in West Culburra, and present the following submission on behalf of oyster farmers operating on the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven Rivers.

Australia's Oyster Coast Inc. ('AOC') is the lead oyster industry association representing oyster farmers operating across the major estuaries of the NSW South Coast. We are a progressive organisation that works in partnership with government, other industry and the community to ensure an inclusive and integrated approach to natural resource management across the Shoalhaven.

AOC is not against appropriate development in and around estuarine environments. We recognise the economic and social benefits of well-planned development, and our members have a long history of working in partnership with developers to ensure sustainable outcomes are achieved from development projects.

However, we object to the proposed development at West Culburra in its current form. Our objection arises from several issues, including:

- The effectiveness of environmental controls for the project
- The proximity of proposed infrastructure to active oyster leases
- The lack of direct engagement with the oyster industry in planning for the development.

Again, we are not in principle against developments such as the one proposed, provided these projects are carried out with effective consultation with all stakeholders, and apply best practice when mitigating against any potential environmental impacts.

We would like to schedule a meeting with the developers and your department to discuss our objections, and to work to find an approach to the project that is acceptable to all parties.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wales

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Wales', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Executive Officer
Australia's Oyster Coast Inc.