



**Regional
Development
Australia**
SOUTH COAST
ABN 19 030 783 279

The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP
Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower
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1 November 2013

Dear Minister

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RE: COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASES JERVIS BAY, NSW

It was resolved at the last meeting of Regional Development Australia – Far South Coast (RDA FSC) that I write to support the establishment of Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases within the open marine embayment of Jervis Bay.

RDA FSC recognises that the NSW Government must look at opportunities for sustainable seafood production and the Committee believes it is appropriate that the Department of Primary Industries assess the potential for aquaculture in Jervis Bay at this time.

Jervis Bay has had a history of shellfish culture dating back to 1935 as it has excellent water quality, it is well sheltered from the most prevailing weather conditions, it has a suitable depth profile and it is well serviced with local infrastructure and support industries. All these characteristics make it highly suitable for shellfish aquaculture.

In a region with above average unemployment the introduction of aquaculture to Jervis Bay would provide tourism opportunities associated with food trails or linked to restaurants and food security that would in turn provide full and part time employment.

Global demand for seafood is rapidly expanding and seafood consumption per capita is increasing. In 2008, 46% of the seafood consumed worldwide was produced by aquaculture and the offering for tender of shellfish aquaculture leases in Jervis Bay would allow the Shoalhaven to take advantage of this expanding industry and to benefit from their operating success.

RDA FSC wholeheartedly supports the establishment of Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases in Jervis Bay and subsequent opportunities for sustainable seafood production, employment and provision of local services.

Yours sincerely

Rob Pollock OAM – Chair

CC: Aquaculture Management, Port Stephens Fisheries Institute



An Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative

- ✓ Economic development and jobs growth
- ✓ Community development
- ✓ Environmental sustainability