

13 November 2013

Mr Ritchie
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
NSW Government

Email: chris.ritchie@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Ritchie,

**RE: OBJECTION TO PROPOSED ACQUACULTURE LEASES AROUND CALLALA BEACH AND VINCENTIA
APPLICATION NUMBER: SSI 5657**

I have been made aware that plans are in the pipeline for the NSW Government to establish commercial aquaculture industry in Jervis Bay, on the NSW South Coast (the **Proposal**), and that the NSW Government is seeking to gain approval for three aquaculture leases in Jervis Bay to culture Blue Muscles and other shellfish which, if approved, would be tendered for lease to commercial operators.

I refer to the Proposal and formally lodge my objection thereto.

1. My Standing

I am the owner of a residential property situated at 127 Quay Road, Callala Beach.

2. Reasons for Objection

2.1 Devastation of the local environment.

1. The Proposal has the ability to devastate the local environment as aquafarms discharge waste. Pesticides and other chemicals directly into ecologically fragile coastal waters, destroying local ecosystems.
2. The Proposal, if implemented, has the ability to:
 - (i) alter the sea life in Callala Beach;
 - (ii) adversely impact on beach pollution;
 - (iii) disrupt the habitat of birds and dolphins who frequent Callala Beach.
3. The NSW Government has not provided the local community with an independent experts' report as to the impact that the Proposal will have on the environment.

2.2 The Proposal may not be commercially viable given its size and scale.

1. If this is the case, then the local community would be most concerned if the NSW Government was not completely transparent in its planning and sought, at a later date, to extend the number of leases without having prior notified the public of this intention.
 2. The NSW Government has not provided the local community with an independent experts' report as to whether the Proposal is commercially sound and viable.
- 2.3 Tourism could be materially adversely impacted on by the Proposal.
1. The NSW Government has not provided the local community with an independent experts report as to the impact that the Proposal will have on the tourism industry – which is to include impact on loss of revenue generated by business and resultant employment losses.
 2. I do not accept NSW Government's argument that people are eating more sea food and that the Proposal will create more jobs.
- 2.4 Suffering of significant financial loss.
1. The Proposal has the ability to damage local property values, thereby materially adversely impacting on the financial position of local property owners, including me. This will impact on the Shoalhaven Council's revenue as well as the NSW State Governments revenue as rates and taxes and land tax is calculated using rateable values.
 2. The Proposal, if implemented, will possibly have a large adverse impact on a number of ratepayers, many of whose superannuation and retirement plans are directly linked to the value of their properties in Callala Beach.

I trust that the NSW Government will re-evaluate the Proposal, and ask that you confirm receipt of this letter of objection.

Yours sincerely,
