



Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice

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To whom it may concern,

The Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice (HWCV) is grateful for the opportunity to comment on Modification application SSI-5657-Mod-1.

We would also like to express our thanks to DPI Fisheries and Sam from SCM for taking time to alert the community to the modification. SCM has put a lot of effort into building a positive relationship with the community and this is much appreciated.

We note that the modification application seeks to:

- Move the plots at Callala Beach 100m and 200m closer to the beach because they are currently incorrectly located in a Navy safety trace. This I believe was due to DPI Fisheries providing incorrect location co-ordinates when the lease was first approved.
- Move the Vincentia 10ha plot to a site between the existing 2 plots at Callala Beach
- Expand the overall size of the farm from 50ha to 70ha (Note that the DPI Fisheries website headline does not mention this expansion in area)

The HWCV has received numerous reports from people about mussels creating biofoul on the bottom of their boats that are moored in Currumbene Creek. One man said:

"... we are still having massive mussel growth problem on our boat as are other boat owners in the creek. This started just after the farms were established in the bay, but is continuing to get worse at an alarming accelerated rate. I recently scraped off a growth almost 3" thick in places and it was mainly large fully grown mussel's ... The mussels are growing in hard to get to places and small openings, then they grow and block the openings and are really hard to remove ..."

Another resident, who lives on Currumbene Creek near the highway reported that their boat was covered in mussels. Another resident, who lives perhaps halfway to the highway reported that their boat was also covered in mussels. These residents indicated that this had not happened before.

As the cleaning of the hull of a boat costs either hours of time or thousands of dollar, the HWCV requests Marine Parks research the source of the mussels currently invading Currumbene Creek.

We have looked at the SCM website and see that *Mytilus galloprovincialis* is the species being used, and that this originates from Europe. We are also aware that this species is now called an invasive species in some parts of the world. This adds to our concern and indicates extra importance to confirm without doubt that it is not the mussel farm and this species which is causing so many problems for our local residents.

We are aware that the spread of the mussels was a foreseeable outcome, and to be prevented by a condition, where possible, that the mussels were to be harvested before they became sexually mature and released their spat. We know that it has not always been possible to harvest before they released their spat, adding to the possibility that the spat is venturing up Currumbene Creek when the tide flows in.

The community is also very protective of Jervis Bay as a marine park and would hate to see anything happen to harm its biodiversity. As such, the community is also concerned about biosecurity threats that are posed by bringing spat from Eden to Jervis Bay. It is known that Eden has a number of invasive species: for example European Fanworm, Green Shore Crab, Lightbulb ascidian, and New Zealand Screwshell, and as Eden is becoming a popular cruise ship destination it is at risk of receiving additional invasive species. The threat of pests carried by cruise ships to Eden, and then by spat transference to Jervis Bay is of concern; by way of example New Zealand has just turned around a cruise ship because of a dirty hull so the ship made its way to Hobart, and then will go to Eden.

These are concerns that the community takes very seriously.

We would love to see DPI hold off permission to extend the mussel farm until research into the mussel spread has occurred and a change to management approaches developed to ensure that the mussel farm is not a source of spat or a biosecurity threat.