

NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001.

22nd March 2016

Letter of Support
NSW DPI & Huon Aquaculture Group Modification to Approval

The NSW Aquaculture Association Inc. (NSWAA) wishes to state our support for the modification of the development approvals for finfish research and commercial aquaculture in floating sea cages in Providence Bay off Port Stephens NSW. The NSWAA is a peak industry body representing the land-based aquaculture industry in NSW. For over 30 years the NSWAA has been assisting the industry and promoting industry research and development. The NSW DPI and Huon Aquaculture Group approval modification aligns with the NSWAA's aim of promoting the development of an environmentally responsible, sustainable and commercially viable aquaculture industry in NSW.

NSWAA fully supports the modification to move the location to deeper water and the increase in both lease size and production. Moving further offshore is a very sensible proposal, it benefits the community by moving the project further away from residences and inshore recreational and commercial boating. It benefits the fish with stronger currents and water movement, providing better water quality conditions. It benefits the environment with the deeper water, stronger currents, higher oxygen and courser sediments further offshore all contributing to the faster better breakdown of organic matter.

The project will create jobs, produce sustainable seafood and benefit the local community in both employment and flow on benefits. The aquaculture industry (oysters, yabbies and finfish) is well established with a long history in Port Stephens region. This new development with the cage culture of Yellowtail Kingfish, complements the existing industries and is well received with full industry support.

Yours sincerely



Robert B McCormack
Secretary/Treasurer
NSW Aquaculture Association Inc.