

SUBMISSION REGARDING SSI 5657  
COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASES JERVIS BAY, NSW

Ms Barbara Scott



This photo of Callala Beach should be all the submission necessary, however I assume you would welcome a little more information than that!

While I appreciate the desire by Fisheries NSW to expand aquaculture leases in NSW, the audacity of putting several aquaculture farms in the middle of a pristine area of such natural beauty results in complete stupefaction of anyone who considers it.

It is disconcerting to consider that while the rest of the civilised world is preserving their heritage and natural beauty, New South Wales, with a coastline of 2137 km, can find no alternative to these sites. Jervis Bay is, I believe, five times larger than Sydney Harbour and surely there are many areas less obvious than right in the middle of Callala Beach. This is one of the least spoilt and easily accessible beaches along the whole of the NSW coastline.

The two 20 hectare leases 1.5 and 1.9 km offshore of Callala Beach would actually be very close and very visible from the shoreline; I find it somewhat disingenuous in your conclusion to say *'the risk of the visual amenity . . . . is considered to be 'low' due to the predominantly low profile of the topography on the western side of Jervis Bay'* etc. It is also incorrect to say that *'only elevated residences have views over Jervis Bay'*. Because the beach slopes down to the sea, walkers and picnickers often use not only the beach but these *'coastal sand*

*dunes along the beach front of Callala Beach*'. Where visitors now rest and contemplate dolphins and the beauty of their world, they would instead be exposed to looking over the two aquaculture leases and man's intervention with nature.

Callala Beach and other local beaches provide safe, clean swimming areas and are promoted in the tourism industry as having the 'whitest sand on earth'. This claim, and the beauty of Jervis Bay, entices people to the area for living and recreation opportunities. This beach and the surrounding areas are heavily used not only by locals but visitors and holiday makers all year. The very fact that it currently has '*excellent water quality*' is what makes it so attractive.

To report that '*the risk of safe navigation and other waterway users being significantly impacted by the Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases and its operation is considered to be 'low*'" has obviously been written by someone who has not visited the area during peak summer and/or school holidays.

Apart from recreational fishing boats, there are a growing number of water skiers and now also jet skis who use the complete length of this beach. Water and jet skiers naturally operate closer to the shore than fishing boats and could easily inadvertently stray close to any installation that is only 1.5 km offshore.

Far from the reported minimal increase in industry employment and supposed flow-on economic benefits, Jervis Bay and all its towns run the very real risk of losing their tourist potential if this blatant proposal goes ahead in its current form.

I think to report that this development will '*provide an opportunity for tourist operators to diversify visitors' experiences by visiting the aquaculture leases*' is at odds with what tourists actually want to experience – dolphins, not mussels.

In summary, I disagree with your conclusion that these leases '*will not have a significant environmental, social or economic impact*'.

Ignoring any health, noise or safety issues, which I am not qualified to address, the visual impact alone is enough to **object strongly** to this proposal.

BARBARA SCOTT