ABN 83 395 382 134

PresidentGreg WestlakeSecretaryFiona PhillipsTreasurerFiona Smith



8th November 2013

The Director General NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure Locked Bag 21 ORANGE NSW 2800

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission on the Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases Jervis Bay NSW -Environmental Impact Statement

As a representative of a significant proportion of the local community the Callala Beach Progress Association wishes to make comment on the proposed aquaculture leases and the EIS currently on display.

In regard to the aquaculture leases the Association supports the philosophy of aquaculture as such and agrees that there are advantages in producing sustainable seafood in Australia. However, we have grave concerns regarding the current proposal. Our comments on the EIS are provided below. This submission is broken into three parts addressing specific sections of the EIS, these being:

- 1. Comments on what we perceive to be inadequacies of the EIS;
- 2. A summary of the Callala Beach Community view on the proposal;
- 3. Suggested changes to the proposed Aquaculture Leases; and
- 4. A summary of this submission.

1. INADEQUACIES OF THE EIS

The Callala Beach Progress Association has reviewed the EIS for 'Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases Jervis Bay NSW' and found that it has not adequately addressed the following issues.

1.1 Visual Amenity (Section 8.2.1.1 of the EIS)

We have been advised that the buoys supporting the droppers and baskets are black in colour and will ride low in the water. It is our opinion that even though these buoys lie low in the water there will in fact be a large number of buoys spread over the 20 hectare lease areas and these will in fact be quite obvious from the shoreline. In addition each lease area will be marked with navigational buoys and these will be by necessity very obvious. To make matters worse the boats used to access the lease areas and attend the mussel farm in other locations can be as large as 12-15 metres in length. These boats generally have cranes fitted to raise the long lines of mussels making the boats readily visible as they ply their trade. These boats will attend the leases most days.

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This visual impact will have several adverse results and these are as follows.

- A. Tourists come to Jervis Bay because it is seen as a near pristine unspoilt environment. The appearance of this semi industrial development straight off the beautiful crescent of Callala Beach will undoubtedly have a negative impact on tourism generally. This is especially damaging to Callala Beach where local business are already teetering on the brink of closure. In recent months we have seen the closure of the local general store and the loss of the only petrol station in the area.
- B. Local residents who utilise Callala Beach every day to enjoy its unspoilt beauty will be greatly disadvantaged. Many of the locals are already dismayed with the visual impact of the zoning markers installed by the Marine Park.
- C. The loss of visual amenity at Callala Beach will reduce land values. We note that the value of beach front properties at Callala Beach has already been reduced by new building policies based on sea rise resulting form global warming. The main asset of these properties is their unspoiled view of the bay and proximity to a clean beach. The question still to be answered by the State Government is who will compensate landowners for the considerable loss in property values?

1.2 Water Quality and Sedimentation (Section 8.2.2.1 of the EIS)

Mussels are filter feeders which means they strain single cell algae and planktonic animals from the water to eat. Each mussel is capable of filtering about 300 litres of water per day and they in turn produce a large amount of faecal waste. "The average mussel farm is stocked with mussels at around 15/m² of seafloor and each mussel produces about 230 mg of waste each day, which translate to 35 g/m² of mussel waste per day. The enormity of this waste production becomes evident if the amount generated is calculated over a year: 125 t/ha/yr of mussel faeces."¹ Valid concerns exist on how this waste will be captured and disposed of and what impact this may have on aqua sports such as swimming.

International research indicates that the seabed beneath a mussel farm can change significantly with the build up of mussel waste and shells. This material settles on the seafloor and can adversely alter the marine environment including the chemical and biological composition of the seabed. In New Zealand it is the general practice to locate mussel farms over muddy habitats rather than coarser sand habitats as "particulate waste deposition from marine farms can cause significant changes to habitats with coarser substrates. Mussel waste can also reduce water quality and clarity particularly if currents swirling around farm structures keep them (waste) suspended in the water column. This can

¹ Source: James Cook University utilising the waste stream..2008

Correspondence: The Secretary, PO Box 2 Callala Beach NSW 2540 secretary@callalabeach.org

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result in less sunlight reaching the seabed particularly in shallower waters."² Marine studies have proven that a reduction in sunlight can further alter the flora and fauna composition of the environment that would be to the determent of local Jervis Bay species.

1.3 Genetic Disease and Introduced Pests (Section 8.2.2.2 of the EIS)

A major concern is the genetic effects farmed mussels could have on wild native mussels living in the bay. Mussel spawn from marine farms can readily mix with wild populations and adversely affect the diversity and survivability of the native mussels.³ It would be impossible to prevent this from occurring even in the most controlled aquaculture farming environment.

The impact of aquaculture farming on the marine environment is summed up in a recent posting on the internet by a keen diver who states "On a recent trip to Eden whilst diving in Twofold Bay, I was shocked and disgusted to find once healthy reefs had been inundated with mussels, displacing much weed and marine life from those reefs. On returning back to the boat ramp we struck up a conversation with a local abalone diver. He told us they had lost much of the abalone bearing reefs around the bay to mussel inundation." ⁴ Twofold Bay, an area with aquaculture leases, is evidence of the detrimental impact mussel farms can have on a marine environment.

1.4 Economics (Section 8.2.1.6 of the EIS)

The EIS formulates the view that the economic impact on the local economy will be positive based on experience at other sites. It is obvious that this assessment has not taken into account the negative impact on tourism of turning a near pristine area into a semi industrial one. Tourism at Callala Beach in particular has in the recent past been badly wounded by algae blooms in the Bay resulting in unsightly and smelly beaches. It is expected that a semi industrial site immediately off the beachfront will have a similar negative outcome.

Tourism may also be adversely impacted if mussel farm debris is washed up on the shores of Jervis Bay following storm events. This is highly likely as evidenced by recent strong storms washing up, and destroying, many yachts in adjacent Callala Bay. It is not understood if the lease structures will be capable of withstanding strong storms and associated wave action. Reports from Victoria suggest that the integrity of mussel farm structures can be adversely affected by heavy storm activities. There are concerns locally that if storm activity increases in strength as a result of global warming aquaculture infrastructure will break away and wash onto the beach or out into the Bay causing serve safety and environmental hazards.

² Source: NZ Ministry for Primary Industries Greenshell Mussels Assessing Ecological Effects 2013.

³ Source: NZ Ministry for Primary Industries Greenshell Mussel Assessing Ecological Effects 2013

⁴ Source: http://www.edenmagnet.com.au/story/1489305/mussels-foul-water/.

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It is expected that tourists, the main stay of the local economy, will abandon the rental accommodation at Callala Beach in favour of other areas because the view and safety of the water and beach have been ruined. It has been proven that predator prey relationships change with the introduction of mussel farms into a marine environment and this could mean an increase in shark activity close to shore. The relative safety of Callala Beach is a drawcard to families who holiday here and the location of the aquaculture leases so close to the beach will bring into question the safety of the waters from large predatory species.

These are all possible adverse outcomes resulting from placement of the leases close to the foreshore and we question the reasoning behind selecting this area. Why would we wish to risk a thriving tourism industry and a near pristine marine environment for the sake of the few jobs outlined in Section 8.2.1.6 of the EIS.

2. THE COMMUNITY VIEW

As the CCB for the Callala Beach area the Association has discussed these issues with many members of the local community and found that the majority are against the positioning of the leases so close to Callala Beach. This overwhelming public feeling has lead to the gathering of two petitions to have the leases moved away from the beach. A 'hardcopy' petition and an 'online' petition.

A copy of the 'hardcopy' petition is attached in Appendix A. This contains 120 signatures. Considering there are only 774 residents in Callala Beach, 2011 Census, this is a significant percentage of the local population, and return visitors, who have expressed concerns about the proposed location of the leases. In addition, the online petition has collected 267 signatures to date. The online petition introduction is provided in Appendix B. This petition also provides participants with an opportunity to give their reason for signing the petition. These reasons are attached in Appendix B and provide a graphic demonstration of the local community's view of this proposal.

3. WHAT IS THE BEST OUTCOME FOR CALLALA BEACH AND THE MARINE PARK THAT IS JERVIS BAY?

Based on the information provided above the preferred outcome for the Callala Beach Community would the relocation of the leases away from Callala Beach to the other side of Jervis Bay where other suitable locations exist. In this location the leases could be monitored closely and if or when damaging side effects occur they are less likely to impact on the near pristine environment that is Callala Beach and the tourism industry on which the village relies heavily on. However, as the Navy appears unwilling to allow this the only acceptable option is to **not approve** the leases located off Callala Beach.

4. SUMMARY

We have demonstrated that there are significant concerns with this development. These concerns include: visual amenity: impact upon the local economy; water quality and

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sedimentation; adverse and irreversible impacts to the marine environments flora and fauna; and introduced pests. This proposal is located in a world renowned Marine Park. Any damaging side effects of the aquaculture activity could have catastrophic consequences to the Marine Park and Jervis Bay itself.

We have also demonstrated, at Appendix A and B, that a large proportion of the population of Callala Beach is against the proposed lease location off Callala Beach. We trust that you will recognise the validity of this submission and urge you to not approve the lease in the proposed location.

Yours sincerely

Gregory Westlake President Callala Beach Progress Association

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APPENDIX A

Hard Copy Petition

Name	Address	Signature
Greg Westlehu	48 atherine Jts Myoli	Signature
Craig Reid	20 Watts Rd	1 The min
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Jill Talbot	18 King George St Call. BC	
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Kevin Bennett	102 MURRAM ST CANALA BOM	Stephen elt
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We the undersigned request that the aquaculture leases proposed for Callala Beach is relocated from the area currently identified by the NSW Government. We feel that the location proposed is inappropriate. The beach from Myola to Callala Bay is popular with residents and visitors alike and we are concerned that recreational activities enjoyed by all will be adversely impacted by the aquaculture leases.

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APPENDIX B

Online Petition

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INTRODUCTION FOR ONLINE PETITION

Callala Beach within Jervis Bay National Marine Park is one of the most popular tourist destinations within Australia. The location of the aquaculture leases will result in a significant visual impairment of the beautiful coastline of this area, as well as disruption due to the noise of commercial fishing vessels. In short, the leases will be a blight upon one of the most beautiful and popular vistas in the world.

COMMENTS FROM ONLINE PETITION

Reasons for signing

• Most Popular

• Latest

- Yolanda Stephanie Marshall AUSTRALIA
 - 4 months ago
 - Liked 1

I live at Callala Bay. I walk and cycle on Callala Beach. I kayak and sail right through the area of the proposed leases. I believe the lines and floats will pose risks to boat users, sea life and bird life.

Joanne Wong MAROUBRA, AUSTRALIA

- 4 months ago
- Liked 1

I am a house owner and regular visitor to Callala Beach, I enjoy the fact that Jervis bay is one of the few marine parks that are untouched and unspoiled by man's footprint.

• Brett Davis AUSTRALIA

- 4 months ago
- Liked 1

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Commercial fishing in this popular tourist location will negatively impact both fish and tourist numbers.

Bryan Koslow JAPAN

- about 7 hours ago
- Liked 0

•

Jervis Bay is a pristine piece of our environmental heritage.

ron hooper sydney, new zealand

- about 11 hours ago
- Liked 0

It will ruin the aesthetics of the area, and bring an industrial perspective to this beautiful seaside town.

Benjamin Mitchell AUSTRALIA

- 1 day ago
- Liked 0

I live on callala beach, and this will destroy my view.

Melissa Mueller AUSTRALIA

• 13 days ago

• Liked 0

Visual impact, Boating noise. Surely there is a less prominent place for the leases instead of fronting Callala Beach.

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• Steve May Australia

- about 1 month ago
- Liked 0

We own a holiday rental and are significantly concerned about the impact that the aquaculture will have.

Jason Danjoux AUSTRALIA

- about 1 month ago
- Liked 0

I believe this will ruin one of natures untouched beauties. In addition I am concerned for boats and possible incidents on the water that could harm lives.

SHEREE Danjoux AUSTRALIA

• 2 months ago

Liked 0

Callala beach and Jervis Bay are one of the most peaceful and beautiful bays in the world. It is a popular tourist attraction and will be spoiled by the changes. There are many other places it could goNot here!

Philip Murphie AUSTRALIA

• 2 months ago

Liked 0

My wife and I have had our holiday home at Callala Beach for 20 years which our family and grandchildren love to come to for the enjoyment of the beach, recreational fishing and the beauty this pristine waterway presents. Now big brother seems intent on destroying what

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beauty and peace this area has given us for the sake of the almighty dollar. How many more eyesores can the public put up with.

Edith Macintosh AUSTRALIA

- 2 months ago
- Liked 0

Effects the environment and the stability of the local area

Pamela Rowlinson AUSTRALIA

• 2 months ago

• Liked 0

Callala beach is a beautiful scenic area popular with tourists and the farm will be an eye-sore. The pod of dolphins could get tangled in the lines. Cases of dolphins moving away from locations of mussel farms has been observed in New Zealand (admiralty bay). Live mussels, faeces and broken shells gather underneath causing seabed debris and growth of algae. Mussels will deplete the phytoplankton and upset the ecosystem.

suzi krawczyk australia

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

Leave Jervis Bay, one of the few marine reserves left!

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Paul Casey AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

Liked 0

The negatives far outweigh the positives. For instance, placed in the proposed locations will detract from the visual beauty of this important area. If invisible, they will be dangerous.

Darryl O'Donnell AUSTRAL	IA
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- 3 months ago
- Liked 0

Callala Beach is a small holiday village. It's permanent population is only a third of the holiday population. Please protect the local visual amenity and economy of this village by protecting it as a holiday spot. Having this blight right in front of the beach will ruin the visual aspect of this holiday spot and reduce tourism.

Paul Casey CALLALA BAY, AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

To preserve the natural beauty of the area and not to make hasty decisions with dire consequesences.

Duncan Marshall AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

The proposal is hazardous to all existing boat users, especially in rough seas or low light, further risks and degrades the marine park goals, is motivated by greed not need, poses

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chemical pollution, disease, and visual scarring. Jervis Bay is the people's place for conservation NOT exploitation!

George Liondis AUSTRALIA

- 3 months ago
- Liked 0

As a long time visitor and now home owner I value this pristine part of the world. I would be mortified to see the development of commercial fishing operations in the bay. Please consider the unique environment in Jervis Bay and the legacy we leave for future generations of visitors and owners.

Anne Winkler NOWRA, AUSTRALIA

- 3 months ago
- Liked 0

Don't spoil out beautiful pristine bay with more unnecessary industry

Gavin Watkins CALLALA BEACH, SINGAPORE

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

Jervis Bay is one of the few untouched beaches and environs in Australia if not in the world and should be protected at all costs as a national jewel. Money should not be able to remove our obligation to protect and preserve this for future generations. The current proposal is likely to do long term damage and encourage further unwelcome development of the area.

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• Ellen Liondis OATLEY, NE

• 3 months ago

Liked 0

Callala Beach and Jervis Bay rely on their reputation for unspoiled waters and beaches to attract local and overseas visitors. A mussel farm within Jervis Bay will spoil both the perception and the reality.

Linda Brown BRINGELLY, AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

I am a regular visitor to this area with a caravan site at Myola and this will definitely impact on the beauty of the bay. More than likely affect the sea life and the recreational activities in the bay. Please stop this now.

Claude Rizk AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

Jervis Bay is an area of tourism and has some of the whitest beaches and clearest waters. It would be wrong to put this type of lease in open view.

Natalie Brown AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

Why a Marine Park these areas are protected for a reason.

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• Cath Walker AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

Liked 0

In addition to the reasons cited in this petition, I am also concerned about the effect such development will have on the 'balance' of marine fauna ie effects on the food chain, and given that dolphins have been reported to enjoy mussels, the possibility of a conflict between the project and the dolphins' welfare. As well, I have concerns about the pollution created in the bay from the processing of the mussels. Finally, the scale of the project are large at 2 x 20H, and relative to the pre-existing enterprise off Vincentia and the leases off Twofold Bay.

Connie Ienna AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

Spending holidays at Callala it would be such a shame to see such a beautiful location spoiled and give the area a negative impact.

Tony Owens CALLALA BAY, AUSTRALIA

• 3 months ago

• Liked 0

Noise impact on our houses...

• Leann Lewington AUSTRALIA

• 4 months ago

• Liked 0

Beautiful one day, perfect the next. Let's keep it that way. Jervis Bay has lovely clear fresh water with plenty of marine life - please do not destroy it!

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Merida Smith AUSTRALIA

- 4 months ago
- Liked 0

The size of the leases, along with the high visibility matrix of buoys will definitely have a negative visual impact on the Bay vista.