



Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
Online submissions  
Attn: [andrew.hartcher@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andrew.hartcher@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Dear Sir,

**RE SSI 5657, Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases Jervis Bay, NSW**

The Oyster Committee of the NSW Farmer's Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Fisheries NSW proposal to develop three commercial shellfish aquaculture leases off Vincentia and Callala Beach.

The Association's members are a representative group of NSW oyster growers who via the Oyster Committee provide comment on policy matters relating aquaculture, natural resource management, biosecurity, and rural community issues.

The expansion of new aquaculture areas, 10 hectare lease off Vincentia and 20 hectares in total off Callala Beach, is consistent with the Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS), particularly in light of falling production levels and growing export opportunities. The Committee notes that the activities have a history in the area, will be confined to native species as well as will requiring significant monitoring and reporting. It is also pleasing that there was considerable consultation with stakeholders during 2012 prior to the environmental impact statement (EIS) being drafted.

The Oyster Committee would also like to take this opportunity to query the claims made in by the EIS that the other marine embayment in NSW that currently has mussels, Twofold Bay, is extensively monitored and reportedly show no signs of deleterious effects. Unfortunately this is not the case as the *Love Our Lakes Project* discovered during its marine/coastal foreshore clean ups during 2012/2013.

The clean up activity found that the Twofold Bay venture is one of the major contributors of marine debris of the coast around Eden. Consequently for any proposed Jervis Bay project it is important that the businesses establishing leases have adequate capital to implement the project with appropriate infrastructure for the site.

On that basis the Oyster Committee gives in-principle support to the proposal but reserves the right to comment on the nature and type of each subsequent proposed activity once leases are granted. As each potential Development Application is lodged the Committee intends to use the opportunity to consult with members and provide further substantive feedback.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K McAsh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kevin McAsh

**Chair, Oyster Committee**