

Vincentia Sailing Club raises its objections to the 10 hectare lease off Vincentia, as part of Fisheries NSW' proposal to develop three commercial shellfish aquaculture leases (SSI 5657), on the following grounds:

1. The current proposal with the 10 Ha lease located 600m off Orion beach will have a detrimental effect on VSC's sailing activities; and organizing safe sailing events and regattas will become a thing of the past. There appears to be a total disregard for the safety aspects of recreational boating in that area and VSC's in particular, with the current lease proposal planned in such close proximity to Plantation Point. Vincentia Sailing Club has been established at Plantation Point for over 30 years. We sail from the Point from September till April, in full compliance with all Council and RMS regulations and safety requirements. If this proposal were to go ahead, the lease is potentially a trap to our sailing craft in the prevailing North Easterly sea breezes. Small sailing dinghies and catamarans are inherently unstable and capsizes are common and normally quite easily righted and sailing continued. These boats drift very quickly when capsized. If a boat was to capsize upwind of the lease it would very quickly find itself in the lease area. The potential for damage to our boats as well as the aquaculture lease facility is real, not to mention injury or worse to the crew involved.
2. With the current lease proposal in such close proximity to the beach and Plantation Point, VSC would pretty much lose the "lure" of sailing on Jervis Bay and offering that "lure" to our regular visitors. We know the lure of the picture perfect bay is there without the aquaculture leases, as we have established a strong reputation for running high quality regattas with attendances of 50 to 100 boats to such events. Teams come from all over Australia and we have even had international guests to state and national level events. If the current proposal were to go ahead, instead of offering the lure of Jervis Bay to our visitors, we'd be offering them an obstacle course.
3. We question the financial viability of the proposed leases, certainly in their current sizes and we know that any lost revenue to the broader local community as a result of cancelled sailing events, would not have been taken into account. A case in point is the upcoming Hobie World Championship to be held in February '14 on Jervis Bay. Over 600 people are expected to visit our region, staying for two weeks bringing in an estimated \$1M to the tourism industry and the local economy. Again, events such as these will become a thing of the past if all we can offer are obstacle courses.

If DPI is so intent on issuing licences for the proposed projects, then the visual pollution from the nearby shore, the obstacles/safety hazards they will pose to sailors, as well as substantial loss of tourism revenue, must be taken into account and these projects must be located much further from the shore.