



**Huskisson Woollamia
Community Voice**
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(13 November 2013)

Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
Submission via: online form

Dear Sir/Madam,

Jervis Bay - SSI 5657, Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases - Jervis Bay, NSW

The Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice supports the Jervis Bay aquaculture proposal.

The three lease areas (50ha) cover ~ 1% of Jervis Bay surface area (4,800ha). The boundaries of the leases would be marked with RMS approved buoys and lights. On average, the leases are ~150m from the shore.

Declining fish stocks worldwide means that aquaculture is the way of the future. Fish farms are common in Tasmania and around the world. Current environmental monitoring in Twofold Bay (Eden) under the existing mussel long lines shows little or no impact on the benthic (lowest water level) environment from mussel farming activity.

The proposal would create local jobs and economic activity ‘...*should result in the full time employment of 12-15 people with 8-10 indirect positions also created to service this development..*’ (DPI, EIS) There are potential synergies with local tourism, especially the bay cruising industry, as demonstrated at Twofold Bay with the *Cat Ballou* cruise charter.

Tourism visitors want to eat fresh local shellfish, at approachable prices.

Visually, in the offshore locations the system of longlines suspended from buoys should not be intrusive, nor is there expected to be any significant noise from the associated water craft - in a 48km² bay.

Regarding the risk to marine life, the DPI EIS has this to say: ‘*There is little evidence to suggest that longline infrastructure poses a direct entanglement risk to marine mammals, turtles or seabirds...*’ (DPI, EIS)

Siting of the leases faces several constraints, including the Naval firing trace, Commonwealth Waters, and Marine Park Sanctuary Zones. The capacity for alternative siting or site expansion is very limited.

We feel that the impacts are manageable, including via regular targeted monitoring. We understand that the Vincentia Sailing Club would prefer to re-locate the Vincentia lease slightly to the north; we have no problem with this.

Declaration: No reportable political donations have been made in the previous two years.

Yours sincerely,
Garry Kelson, Chair,
Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice (CCB) 13 November 2013