

April 7, 2014

Dear Mr. Hazzard,

I object and am opposed to the proposed Pindimar Abalone farm, Application number MP 10_0006.

The Pindimar Abalone Project seeks to develop a 5-hectare farm at 180 Clarke Street, Pindimar 2324 and will aim to produce 60 tonnes a year of Black lip Abalone, an exotic delicacy in high demand to overseas buyers, already attracting the attention of a Japanese wholesale company.

Beneficial to only its investors, the residents of this magical area along with its visitors, the surrounding environment and marine life will suffer greatly as a direct result of the development of this project.

The land-based farm which will include cultivation and breeding ponds will siphon 50 mega litres of marine water from Port Stephens daily. This will cause irreparable damage to the surrounding waterways with the farms close proximity to the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park and Tomaree headland. Karuah River already has a tested poor health rating, Myall River has suffered from red spot disease, Port Stephens has suffered a major loss of oysters in recent years and NSW wild abalones have already been decimated by a parasite. To add to the fragile and declining health of these waterways the abalone farm brings the potential known threat of disease and water contamination as seen in similar previous developments.

Access to the proposed site for the project is on usually quiet residential streets Clarke Street and Cambage Street where children play, families walk their dogs and an exercise path for the elderly. Making it a thoroughfare for trucks and industrial machinery introduces high dangers and unnecessarily increases traffic flow, in turn also changing the value for home owners of a known quiet and safe neighborhood.

The proposed site location is absurd considering it simply does not have the infrastructure to support neither the development, nor the sustainability of the abalone farm rendering it unviable and the continuation of this project proposal unnecessary.

With review of all evidence, I strongly object to the proposed Pindimar Abalone Farm.

(Signature) *J. Dowsett*
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