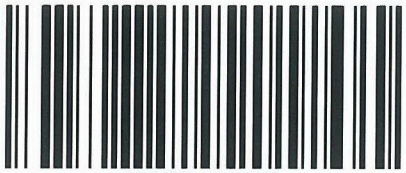

PCU53098

24 Brooks St
Linley Point
NSW
7/5/14

Development Assessment Systems & Approvals,
Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

Attention: Director, Industry, Key Sites and Social Projects

RE: Objection to Pindimar Abalone Farm (MP 10_0006)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register an objection to the above project. There are dozens of reasons why this project is ill-advised. I list some of the most important below for your consideration.

Species/location mismatch

Abalone (optimal water temperature 18-19 degrees Centigrade) are not suited to a Pindimar water supply which comes from a shallow estuary, 7 km from the ocean inlet. This latter site is where the Tomaree Pt experimental station obtained its water.
At Pindimar, the water is several centigrade degrees hotter. Tomaree Pt data are not valid for Pindimar.
[There are no Atlantic salmon farms in Queensland or barramundi farms in Tasmania precisely because of such a species/temperature mismatch.]
Data from satellite surveys demonstrate mean water temperature (at Corlette - 1km across the bay from the water inlet pipes) in summer months of over 24 degrees Centigrade. There is no temperature stratification - deep and surface water give the same readings. Despite the tidal nature of the estuary, total turn-around time of water content is two weeks.
A high mortality and stress rate is predictable.
If the proponents' enthusiasm for abalone aquaculture is unquenchable, Port Lincoln offers a perfect water supply - 18-19 degrees year-round.

Brood stock

Perkinsus protozoal infection is widely spread along the NSW coast (prompting a ban on abalone fishing from Jervis Bay to Port Stephens by NSW Fisheries). This infection cannot be excluded by inspection of a live animal. Confirmation requires histological examination of a (dead) animal. Collection of "disease-free" wild abalone thus becomes a gamble

Proximity to Marine Sanctuary

The proposed farm lies immediately to the East of the Pindimar Marine sanctuary. Incoming tides will obviously wash out-flowing water from the tanks and their contents into the sanctuary twice daily.

Open water loop.

Closed loops (whereby the abalone tank output is <u>not</u> returned to the sea) are mandatory in Tasmania and specified by NSW Dept of Fisheries. In contradistinction, this proposal is entirely open, returning 50 Ml of partially treated water to the estuary daily

Biosecurity

No amount of meshing or filtration will prevent egress of a virus such as ganglioneurits. This is not known/recognised in NSW waters but the same was true in Victoria where its later incubation and emergence from abalone farms resulted in near-total destruction of wild abalone - this has subsequently spread over 100km from points of release.

Likelihood of failure.

This must be considered a strong possibility on both biological (temperature) and financial grounds. Profitability has been calculated as requiring minimal 100 tonne output and this calculation was made when the price of abalone was considerably higher than at present. No information is provided as to who will provide the funds for any clean-up which could be required.

Government Liability

The Victorian Government has recently been sued by those whose business has been destroyed by the contamination and destruction of wild abalone from discharge of ganglioneuritis from Government-approved abalone farms. Does the NSW Government wish to take this risk?

Yours faithfully,

J.M. Hallinan M.B.B.S., F.A.C.R.