

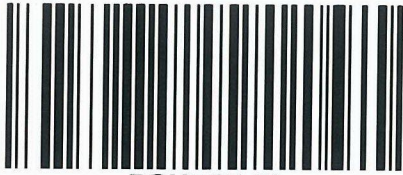


**THE MYALL KOALA & ENVIRONMENT GROUP INC.**

**P.O. BOX 28, HAWKS NEST, NSW, 2324, AUSTRALIA**

**PRESIDENT: Kevin Haskew (02) 4997 1438**

**SECRETARY: Ian Morphett (02) 4997 1550**



**PCU53012**

**1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTOR, INDUSTRY, KEY SITES AND SOCIAL PROGRESS**

**DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM APPROVALS**

**PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Dear Director,

**RE APPLICATION MP 10 \_ 006 (THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN ABALONE AQUACULTURE FACILITY ON LOT 2 DP1014683 180 CLARKE ST, PINDIMAR).**

This submission from the Myall Koala and Environment Group to this proposal is by way of **objection**.

The proposal is very similar to that which was approved by Great Lakes Council in 2006 and subsequently challenged in the Land and Environment Court before Chief Judge Preston. During the court proceedings the proponent withdrew from the case, it being abundantly clear from matters raised during and after the site inspection that the Court would not uphold the Council's approval.

Now, years later, the proponent, Austasia Leefield Pty Ltd, is submitting a proposal that is very similar, but larger, to that put forward in 2003, and essentially incorporates the same environmental threats which the proponent could not justify before the Land and Environment Court.

We submit that this larger proposal poses unacceptable risks to the land-based and water based environmental values of the Port Stephens location off Pindimar, and therefore **call upon The Department of Planning and Infrastructure to disallow the proposal.**



## **LAND- BASED CONCERNS**

The site contains a number of important environmental attributes including significant native vegetation, nearby SEPP 14 coastal wetlands, threatened ecological communities and species. The latter includes the koala. The subject site is included in the Recovery Plan for the endangered Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens population.

The measures outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement give us no confidence that the integrity of the site will be adequately protected. Studies used in arriving at conclusions in the EIS need to be thoroughly updated through appropriate and adequate field surveys for threatened fauna.

We believe there should be an assessment under the Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity Act 1099.

## **WATER BASED CONCERNS**

We also believe that the proposed abalone farm poses serious threats to the water quality of Port Stephens, both in the immediate locality of the farm and further afield.

Flushing in the region of the farm is irregular. Consequently there will be an accumulation of waste, impacting on sea grasses. Sea grasses are already at a premium in Port Stephens.

Abalone farms are incubators of disease, *ganglioneuritis* for example, which has caused massive mortality in the Victorian industry and has spread to Tasmania. The waters of Port Stephens are considerably warmer than those associated with these southerly locations.

**THERE IS LITTLE IN THIS PROPOSAL THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT FOR PORT STEPHENS.**

**ON THE OTHER HAND IT PRESENTS SIGNIFICANT RISKS WHICH ARE NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED IN THE EIS.**



**Kevin Haskew (President)**