

Submission 34 – Anonymous 13

Content:

I wish to object to the proposed Abalone Farm at Pindimar in NSW.

My main concerns include but are not limited to:

1/ After reading the Environmental Assessment, I have little to no confidence in the quality of statements offered by the developers. To me, their descriptions of estimated levels of pollutants being put back into the Port Stephens waters seem to be under exaggerated estimates and there appears to be a fair amount of ambiguous responses by the developers. They seem to struggle to produce hard facts, and have opted to offer statistics and figures from other Abalone ventures located in and around areas who have very different water quality issues. Port Stephens whilst it appears in quite good shape, is already struggling to maintain its natural beauty. Any extra commercial aquaculture ventures will push the ecology to the brink, and this Abalone Farm offers more risks than the Port can handle.

2/ The main source of income in the Port Stephens area is quite heavily tourism focussed. The developers of the Abalone Farm have recently admitted there will be damage to sea grass beds and opted to also state that pollutants will indeed be flushed into the Port daily. Surely in this day in age any commercial operation injecting pollution into the water would be stopped by the E.P.A or local council. Any percentage of pollutant is too much, and will over time stress an already struggling Port that receives 90% of its income and employment gained from tourism on the water like Dolphin and Whale Watch Tours. The E.A highlighted that the developers didn't seem to care about our tourism industry and its importance, well, I care about it and DO NOT WANT THIS ABALONE FARM TO PROCEED.