

We wish to oppose the proposed abalone farm on the following grounds:

1. **Impact on the community.** The main concerns are increased traffic flow down a dead-end street, Cambage Street, which has no street lighting, no footpaths (residents walk on the road), causing safety concerns for children, interaction between residents and industrial site traffic, noise impacts on our quiet community, odour from rotting abalone, fouling of Pindimar beach and potential health risks to swimmers, loss of amenity and loss of property values with no corresponding compensation. The development of a small supermarket or hotel would provide the same employment opportunities without the significant risks to the environment. This is a poor choice of access to this industrial property which could easily be conducted through Clarke Street with much less impact on the community.

We believe that there is an issue with effluent coming up with the sea water into low lying areas of the village at high tide. This has always been an occurrence in the village and is a potential health risk to the residents if the water carries pollution in with it from the abalone farm. It would also create a foul smell in the village.

2. **Impact on the marine park.** This is a serious concern as there are a number of threatened and endangered species protected by the park and there has been inadequate research understanding the likely impacts. There needs to be a long term baseline study say over 15 years to understand the movements and likely risks to these endangered species. According to the Environmental Assessment, there is no impact on any species, which is odd but understanding given the lack of research conducted.

A 'snapshot study' with an inadequate level of diligence given what is at stake here. It's a poor choice of site being in the middle of a marine park. No consideration was given to other more favourable locations such the Southern coastal regions south of Jervis Bay.

3. **Impact of the commercial oyster industry** – the well known Perkinsis disease which is carried by the abalone which could decimate the Port Stephens oyster industry. Poor choice of region given this existing industry presence in Port Stephens.
4. **Impact on terrestrial fauna** such as the koala. There needs to be a proper study to determine the movements of koala in this area. The 'snapshot study' conducted is rejected as not of an acceptable standard. Again, poor choice of site given issues and threats to the future of koala colonies in this region.

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5. **This is an experiment that is likely to fail** leaving the community with another mess to live with like the failed oyster leases structures with contaminated soils from the tar factory. This is unacceptable.

We believe the proposal should be rejected on the basis that it is an inappropriate development for the reasons set out above.