- I, Pindimar, wish to strongly object to the above mentioned Development Application, on the following grounds.
 - This venture was overturned in the Land & Environment Court in 2007. The Proponents
 then doubled the amount of abalone to be produced and had it declared "State Significant"
 - If approved this venture will create the Precedent of first industrial venture in Port Stephens with permission to pump contaminated water back into the Port.
 - The venture will not be financially viable. No verifiable Cash Flow Plan or financial assessment of the operation
 - 4. Unacceptable noise levels right next to South Pindimar Village.
 - 5. Unsuitable site for this Industry on a flood plain and on the shallow side of the Port
 - 6. Lack of verifiable Water Flow Plans.
 - 7. Smell
 - 8. Use of Village Roads

Our Association has been fighting this highly invasive, industrial venture since 2004 and I have learnt a lot about the product.

My submission is based more on common sense and logic and some Scientific facts.

2 This venture will be the Precedent allowing a commercial industrial operation on land pumping 50 megalitres of port water through 1 kilometre of 630mm, outside diameter pipe, through the system, allowing 15 minutes settling time, and then back into the Port carrying 1,000 kilograms of nitrogen and all the other waste not settled in that 15 minutes, 24/7, per year. 2 from of purple

The inlet pipes are very close to Port Stephens Marine Park- so the sanctuary area will safely breed up juvenile aquatic species which will then be sucked up through the 2 – 5 mm mesh and through the farm. In our previous action, our Expert, Marcus Lincoln-Smith, stated that if all the sucked in, juvenile stock were allowed to grow out, the value would greatly outweigh any profit made on the Abalone Farm

There are another 2 land based fish farms situated in this Port, neither is allowed to discharge their waste water back into the Port. As soon as this Venture is passed they will apply for the same right following the precedent setting principle.

PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE MUST PREVAIL.

Department of Planning Received 1 2 MAY 2014

- 3 Noise Impact Study by Advitech. Page 1 of Section 21.
- 2.1 States that as Noise Impact was not challenged in previous Court Case the original estimates will be acceptable to the relevant regulators.

This is incorrect as the survey carried out by Heggies for previous application. assessed the noise caused in producing 30 tonnes of abalone per year. Proponents have doubled the capacity to 60 tonnes per year, the pipes size has been increased to 630mm outside diameter, and 4 pipes instead of 2 pipes. The water intake will be approx. 5 times the previous amount, needing much more noisy machinery to pump the water up and through the system. The cooling equipment will also have to be more extensive. The local electrical grid cannot supply the necessary power, so there will have to be a generator as well.

All this machinery noise will happen within 250 metres of South Pindimar Village. A quiet village that the current sound is only birdsong. There is no background noise even though Advitech state there is a low hum of road traffic noise from the highway, THIS IS NOT TRUE. By stating a higher Background Noise Level and by adding the allowable PSNL they have a higher scope. Proponents do not know what equipment is required, so cannot predict the noise level produced The old noise studies are not now relevant.

NO PFREVIOUS ESTIMATES ARE ACCEPTABLE AS PRODUCTION AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED.

4. Proponents state they have an ideal site for the farm. This is just the site they own. The ideal site is out on the coast using ocean water. All other abalone farms are 10 kilometres from any homes. This proposed industrial development is within 250 metres of the village.

WHY WOULD YOU ALLOW AN INTRUSIVE INDUSTRY SO CLOSE TO HOMESTEADS & BETWEEN 2 SEPP 14 WETLANDS AND ON A FLOOD PLAIN & ADJACENT TO PORT STEPHENS MARINE PARK

The Experimental Abalone Farm was situated on Tomaree Headland in a container, with 2 x 2inch pipes just going over the land edge and down into very fast flowing, cool ocean water. Fisheries Dept. claim this station was a success, but perkinsus did develop there.

This intended site is inside an Estuary 9-10 kms from the headlands and on the slow moving side of the Port. To reach the deeper water of the Port the pipes have to go 500 metres over the sand flats and sea floor. The Proponents plan to bury the pipes where they cross public access and into the Port 200 metres, and then they will be supported on cement plinths for 300 metres. A very invasive plan and one that will des troy 2,000 sq metres of valuable fish breeding and growing sea grasses.

Another problem here is that the site to be dug up is Acid Sulphate Soil and needs extreme caution in any digging as it can result in a Fish Kill in, and right next to the Marine Park.

How can we be sure the Proponents will take the necessary care without independent, consistent monitoring of daily activities.?

5 No Articulated Water System Plan in E.A. Proponents do not know what equipment will be required to pump the water through the farm, or that required to cool the breeding tanks as the ambient water temperature in the Port is too high.

Oyster growing is another concern. This has been a viable industry but has had a few losses lately. There are oyster leases near the site. Perkinsus also affects oysters. The 1,000 kgs of nitrogen per year and the other waste, discharged into the Port won't help the oysters either.

In order to cool the water enough for breeding to occur it will take a huge cooling unit costing in the range of \$1 million and approx. \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year to maintain. The existing electricity grid cannot supply enough power. AGAIN AN UNPLANNED GENERATER

The digging in and covering of the pipes into acid sulphate soils is risky. These pipes (4 x 500 metres long and 630 mm outside diameter) will become a haven for the usual parasitic fauna which will then have to be cleaned (two exit pipes will also have concentrations of disease) Cleaning them will be very complicated but what will happen to the waste – surely it won't be dumped in the Port when no abalone waste can be dumped in the Port. More monitoring needed.

There are so many problems that can happen. The Proponents are so assuring saying "Nothing will go wrong" but in our iconic Port only one thing need to malfunction with drastic results. I have enclosed some tourist brochures which verify that this inappropriate industrialisation has no place in this tourist destination and of the fallout and loss of jobs should something go wrong. There are many more jobs which could be lost due to one problem happening in this farm, which will only employ 15 people, as they state, but in fact, it is usually only 2 to 5 once it is working.

There is also a Turtle Hatchery in the area. Proponents wife (Mrs. Jan Bressan) was telling us "How wonderful it was, paddling her canoe among the baby turtles".

The Proponent, Mr. Robert Bressan tells us the water returned to the Port will be cleaner than that taken up. Does he think we are stupid. He has learnt nothing about abalone since he became involved.

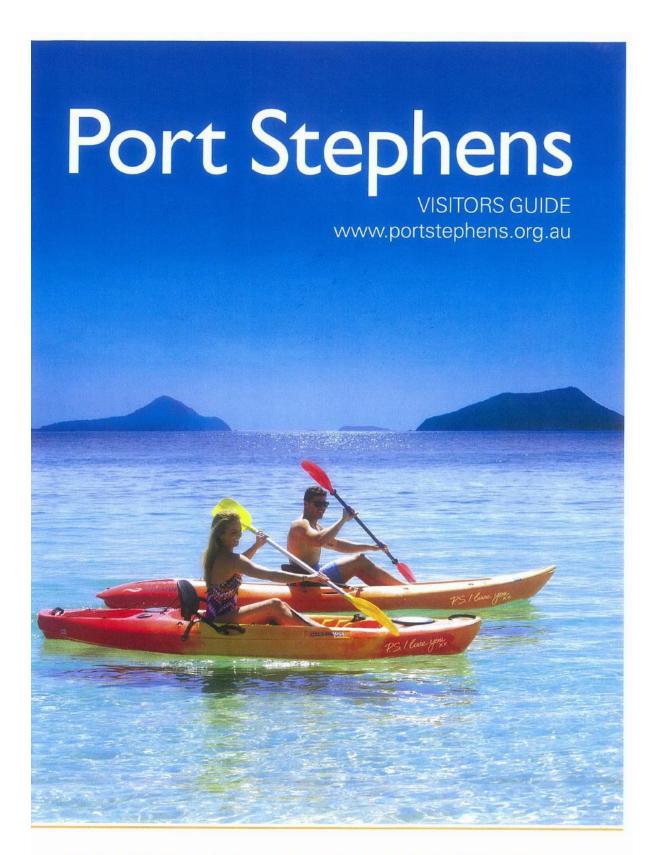
Mr. Housefield has a dream, but as in the previous case has not prepared his plans accurately. We are not against his Abalone farm as long as it is like all other abalone farms – 10 kms from homes and out on the coast without the capacity to harm our iconic Port. I do not want to fly over our Port in later years and see a slick from its aquaculture in its middle, as we saw around the fish farms in Southern Tasmania.

This is a land mark decision which will affect our iconic Port, and could cause a catastrophe wrecking a lot of businesses and lives here

BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION THE PANEL SHOULD VISIT THE SITE AND SEE OUR BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES AND PORT STEPHENS.

I have not donated any money to any political party ever in my life.

Enclosed:- 2 Tourist Books (Port Stephens & Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest; 1 advert in Sundays Paper.



RESTAURANTS | ATTRACTIONS | ACCOMMODATION

Tea Gardens & Hawks Nest



Gateway to the Myall Coast

Explore - Relax - Discover

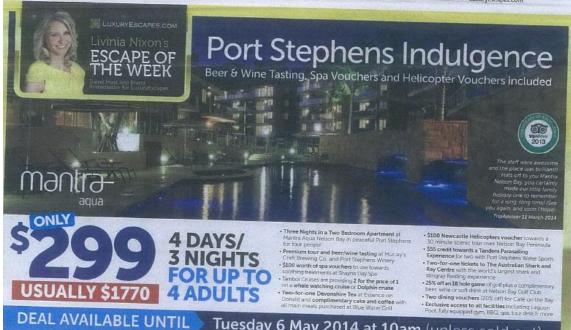
The Perfect Escape

Known as the 'Dolphin Capital of Australia' with golden beaches, sheltered waterways and pristine national parks - Port Stephens is the ideal year round holiday haven. Just over two hours north of Sydney and 25 minutes from Newcastle, visitors can indulge, relax or explore with water sports, fishing, whale and dolphin watching, gourmet dining, boutique shopping and much more, all in one ideal setting.

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