

From: Peter Schaeffer
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2009 3:25 PM
To: RPDC
Subject: Proposed canal housing estate inside Ralphs Bay Conservation Area

Dear Sir

May I express my concern that the Tasmanian Government may approve a canal estate in Ralphs Bay.

I have just moved to Tasmania from New South Wales, so firstly I am aware of the immense beauty of this green island which is rich in native flora and fauna, but which is increasingly under threat from introduced species such as cats, rabbits, blackberries and innumerable others. Secondly I am also acquainted with canal developments which, thankfully have now been banned in New South Wales but which have been built in many seaside towns. These developments produce sterile environments which not only destroy native mangroves and swamps - which we are only now beginning to appreciate as being necessary for the health of our waterways - but which also require endless, ongoing maintenance to prevent slippage of housing lot land into the canals and prevent siltation of the canals.

It also appears to be absolutely unethical to allow private industry to profit from the development of land which has been set aside for environmental protection by being designated as a Conservation Area. To allow such development makes a mockery of all other Conservation Areas in the state, which would then be open to the possibility of exploitation by developers or put to other uses at the whim of the Government of the day.

Please stop this development from going ahead and help establish this state as the green state, and thus protect its growing tourist industry with thousands of interstate and overseas tourists flocking to this state to enjoy the unspoilt environment and appropriate tourist developments.

Regards
Anne Schaeffer