

Linda Whelan

26 February 2009

Executive Commissioner
Resource Planning and Development Commission
3rd floor, 144 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Commissioner,

Walker Corporation proposal for development at Ralphs Bay

I write in relation to the consideration by the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) of Walker Corporation's proposal to develop Ralphs Bay.

When I moved back to Tasmania from Sydney in late 2007, one compelling reason for my return was to again live in proximity to one of the most spectacular and unspoiled natural environments Australia has to offer.

When living Sydney, I sometimes had occasion to visit Darling Harbour, which sadly represents a perfect example of what an over developed shoreline can look like.

Thankfully, Ralphs Bay is everything which Darling Harbour is not.

Places like Ralphs Bay drew me back to Tasmania. It is a perfect example of what it is about Tasmania that is special for most of us who live here.

I understand that it is also critical habitat for a number of threatened species of shorebirds and fish. It is so important for that habitat and the living creatures which depend on it to receive the protection which they badly need and deserve.

I cannot for the life of me comprehend why development of such a special place is contemplated when there are so many other places in Tasmania which would be amenable to development without such adverse impacts on the environment.

Why could the proposed development not be land based, for a start?

Sadly and ironically, it is the very beauty of Ralphs Bay which has made it vulnerable to this type of proposal. It is a spectacular place whose beauty will be lost to all Tasmanians if the proposed development proceeds.

For these reasons, I am strongly opposed to the development of Ralphs Bay, and I ask the RPDC to take my views into account in its deliberations on Walker Corporation's proposal.

Yours sincerely


Linda Whelan