

From: Celia Leverton
Sent: Friday, 6 March 2009 11:03 PM
To: RPDC
Subject: Walker proposal for Ralph's Bay

Hello

I am at a loss as to why this proposal is even still being discussed. The people of Tasmania have decided NO!!!! Please hear us. This is our state and we don't want canal style developments on our beautiful coastlines. Tasmania is not the place for these tacky artificial eyesores. Short term gain for a very small group of people, in exchange for the loss of a precious habitat of birds and fish for generations to come. Sounds like greed to me!!

As we all well know, Ralphs Bay is a Conservation area and according to the Commonwealth and State funded Derwent Estuary Program, is critical to the health of the slowly recovering Derwent River.

It's not just the residents of Tasmania that don't want this regression, under the guise of "development". Resident and migratory shorebirds that feed, rest and breed at Ralphs Bay are protected under State and Commonwealth law, as well as by international agreements with Japan, China and the Republic of South Korea. The critically endangered Spotted Handfish is resident inside Ralphs Bay, inhabiting the sandy bottom in deeper waters. According to the State and Commonwealth Spotted Handfish Recovery Plan, disturbance of sediments is a key threat to its survival as a species. Digging out 150 hectares of tidal flat in the near vicinity flies in the face of this advice.

The proposal to privatise and destroy the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area does not have the support of a significant percentage of the South Arm peninsula community or the wider population, as demonstrated in three credible community surveys and continued bad press for the proponent.

The Bartlett Government's very recent decision to change the State Coastal Policy to allow development on mobile coastal landforms can only be regarded as political interference in the RPDC assessment process; a repeat of the Lennon Government's form on the Gunns' pulp mill.

The Commission must adhere to the core Precautionary Principle of the State Coastal Policy and reject the Walker Corporation proposal.

Celia Leverton