

From: Speedy chatfield
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2009 9:59 AM
To: RPDC
Subject: Ralphs Bay Comment

My interest in the Ralphs Bay proposed development is that I am a Lauderdale resident.

At the web site: <http://www.ralphsbay.net.au/news/20090212netbenefits.asp>

It quotes: Walker has previously released the results of its environmental studies and announced around \$1.8 million of projects to offset the predicted minimal impact on bird species.

I don't have a scientific background, but I do have a coffee every morning at the Lauderdale Bakery which looks over Ralphs Bay. I watch the Pied Oystercatchers there and many other bird species and wonder what the attraction is. If this spot wasn't significant and essential to these birds, why would so many use the area. Why would different bird species migrate from around the world to this one spot. I have walked out on the bay and underfoot is packed with tiny shellfish which is clearly something to do with the amount of birds who use this area.

I believe that it is very misleading to state that the proposed development will have 'minimal impact' on bird (and other) species. I believe that this development will have negative and irreversible impacts on the whole Ralphs Bay environment and I believe that this type of development, having been banned in other states, is not a sensible idea for anywhere in Tasmania where there is plenty of land to build on.

I also know that this little email I am sending is useless in the whole scheme of things. I know that Government will make a decision based on economics, not environment or personal opinion. The Tasmanian Government has never been seen as 'environmentally friendly' and if this project goes ahead it will be further proof that the environment means little when money and jobs are part of the equation. (As this point I would like to mention that I am not a 'greenie' and I am not involved in any environmental groups. I like animals and believe that they need to be protected and the importance of animals in the environment needs to be realised, there are less safehavens for animals every year, the significance of protecting one little spot where building should not occur is very important to me).

Ralphs Bay is a very special place. It is a bay that has important aspects for more than just birds and it is no place for development of any kind, let alone this kind. In this day and age I am amazed that such a development could even be considered, let alone get this far in along in the process. There are many places around this area where a development could take place on land beside the water and marinas could be created on the waters edge, rather than in a smelly bay that has very bad weather, high freezing winds in winter and is extremely important to many different animal species.

Just another comment to put in the pile that has no weight in the scheme of things.

Kate Chatfield