

25th February 2009

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

Dear Sir,

Submission Re: Proposed Lauderdale Quay Development by Walker Corporation Pty Ltd

As a concerned Tasmanian I write to urging the commission to reject the proposed marina development by Walker Corporation at Ralphs Bay.

From my reading of the proposal such a development is at odds with aspects of the Tasmanian State Coastal Policy – 1996.

I cite section 1.4.3. of the Act, this states:

“Policies will be developed to respond to the potential effects of climate change (including sea-level rise) on use and development in the coastal zone.”

This development is unsustainable when warnings by the scientific community indicate climate change (global warming) will cause sea levels to rise. It seems that this proposal fails to address this as an issue! Such a scenario will lead to litigation by residents of the development against both the Walker Corporation and the people of Tasmania through State Government for allowing the project to proceed when warnings from the scientific community have not been addressed satisfactorily. This would result in a situation in which future Tasmanians would then bear the cost.

Other reasons for rejecting the proposal are that this proposal is unnecessary as there is no shortage of land available to address current market needs within this state.

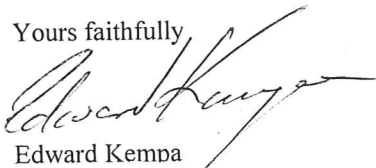
Resident and migratory shorebirds that use Ralphs Bay are protected under State and Commonwealth law.

The critically endangered Spotted Handfish lives inside Ralphs Bay albeit in deeper waters. According to the State and Commonwealth Spotted Handfish Recovery Plan, disturbance of sediments presents a key threat to the survival of the species. The digging out 150 hectares of tidal flat in the near vicinity over the projected 7-10 year construction period represents an unacceptable risk to the species through sediment disturbance over an extended period of time.

The current Government's recent decision to amend the State Coastal Policy to allow development on mobile coastal landforms can only be regarded as short sighted political interference in the RPDC assessment process. It is reminiscent of the Lennon Labor government's attempts to accommodate a commercial development that has an immediate negative impact on Tasmania's unique natural costal heritage and is of dubious long term viability and sustainability.

I urge the commission to reject the proposal.

Yours faithfully



Edward Kempa