

From: watson family
Sent: Thursday, 5 March 2009 7:53 PM
To: 'enquiry.rpdc@justice.tas.gov.au'
Subject: RALPHS BAY CANAL PROJECT

Dear Sir/Madam,

When Walker Corporation first opened their temporary office in Lauderdale Shopping Centre, one of the assistants came into our pharmacy (Lauderdale Pharmacy) and excitedly asked for a disposable camera to “take some pictures of the land”. The “land” was actually Ralphs Bay, with Mount Wellington as the backdrop, on a beautiful day. The “land” they want to build the canals in was so awe inspiring to this Walker employee she was as joyous as a child! This true story is astounding but sad. Sad that they cannot see the value of Ralphs Bay, & perhaps our Government cannot also.

Walker Corporation have imposed themselves on us uninvited and seek to destroy part of our coast solely for profit. Many families in Lauderdale came here for the peaceful community lifestyle. If Walker Corporation are somehow given their will, then we will have in our town a very large “sand mine” with heavy machinery & goodness knows how many truck movements on the roads for not 6 months or 1 year or even 5 years, but at least a decade! We will be subjected to this in our faces, eating away at our peace of mind and our community spirit for ever.

I have lived in the Lauderdale/Acton Park area for 26 years, and owned the Lauderdale Pharmacy for 23 years, and so have a good insight into the feelings of the residents. Most of them feel the same as I do, in my opinion.

The area of Ralphs Bay in question is or has been a conservation area, and home to many migratory birds and other wildlife. Leave it for the wildlife!

The area proposed for the canal project is particularly unsuitable due to the prevailing winds which channel through there. It is also at the head of a large sand bay, where the prevailing weather will continuously deposit sand in the canals. That is why there are large sand flats there now. It is not a suitable place for canals & residential lots. It is a bay, leave it as such!

There are many housing subdivisions at present in the area. Oakdowns, Glebe Hill, Acton Park, and Sandford are some. There is no unmet need for housing!

During construction the bay would be dammed and dried out. Movement of the dry sand by heavy machinery in windy conditions may result in a lot of sand being blown over Lauderdale. Spare us.

I am constantly amazed at the number of “SAVE RALPHS BAY” car stickers around Hobart. In contrast I see precious little support for the canal project!

If the Tasmanian Government & it's representatives are listening to the people, then it must stop this madness, restore our peace of mind, and protect our bay for us and the wildlife that depend on it.

Peter Watson