

From: Wendy Spackman
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2009 1:57 PM
To: RPDC
Subject: Wendy Spackman: Ralphs Bay development unaccepted

24th February, 2009

Executive Commissioner
Resource Planning and Development Commission
3rd floor, 144 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6233 2795
Fax: (03) 6233 5400
Email: enquiry.rpdc@justice.tas.gov.au

ATTENTION: Executive Commissioner

- The Walker Corporation proposal is un-Tasmanian. It represents an unacceptable threat to our wild coastline, and to our economically vital clean, natural brand.
- The proposal is unnecessary; there is no shortage of land available to suit current market needs. And, there are more than enough other tacky coastal strips interstate to satisfy real estate buyers looking for an artificial waterfront lifestyle.
- Ralphs Bay at Lauderdale is a Conservation Area which - according to the Commonwealth and State funded Derwent Estuary Program - is critical to the health of the slowly recovering River Derwent.
- Resident and migratory shorebirds that feed, rest and breed at Ralphs Bay are protected under State and Commonwealth law, as well as 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. A projected 7-10 year construction period digging out 150 hectares of tidal flat in the near vicinity represents an unacceptable risk to the Spotted Handfish.
- The proposal to privatise and destroy the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area has no 'social license' ie. it 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.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Regards,

Wendy Spackman
B.Ed., Grad. Dip. Fine Art