

From: Gerard Castles
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2009 8:14 AM
To: RPDC
Subject: Submission

Dear Sir/Madam, I would like to lodge my opposition to the Walker Corporation's proposal for Ralph's Bay. I would like the Commission to reject the Walker Corporation Project of State Significance (PoSS) for the following reasons:

- The Walker Corporation proposal 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 1996 to allow development on mobile coastal landforms, along with a proposed major shakeup of the planning system, can only be regarded as interference in the RPDC assessment, compromising its independence and integrity, putting the community and environment at a distinct disadvantage in the planning process; a repeat of the Lennon Government's form on Gunns' pulp mill.
- The Commission must be left to undertake its task independent of such interference, and adhere to the core Precautionary Principle of the State Coastal Policy to reject the Walker Corporation proposal.
- CLimate change trends make the proposal untenable in the long term as low lying areas like the proposed development will become under threat.

Many thanks

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