

From: Jo Murray
Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2009 3:10 PM
To: RPDC
Subject: Ralph's Bay

I wish to submit that I object to the Walker Corporation proposal for Ralph's Bay because:

it represents an unacceptable threat to our coastline, and a dangerous precedent that will threaten coastal environments all around Tasmania
the Federal Government supports Coastcare activities through the Envirofund and provides awards to volunteer organisations that rehabilitate and regenerate damaged coastal areas, so why allow a corporate citizen to do damage to the environment when ordinary citizens may not?

an artificial waterfront lifestyle development is at odds with concern about climate change and rising sea levels

Ralph's 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 Ralph's 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 Ralph's 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 recent decision of the Bartlett Government to over turn the State Coastal Policy to allow development on mobile coastal landforms threatens any waterfront area in Tasmania and represents political interference in the RPDC assessment process; repeating the Lennon Government's Gunns' pulp mill error
the proposal is unnecessary; there is no shortage of land available to suit current market needs and if people want waterfront lifestyle developments they can buy interstate, where these type of developments already exist

The Commission must adhere to the core Precautionary Principle of the State Coastal Policy and reject the Walker Corporation proposal.

Jo Murray
member
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