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Subject: Glamorgan Spring Bay Local Provisions Schedule.
Date: Friday, 14 February 2020 1:40:21 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the Glamorgan Spring Bay Local Provisions Schedule.

I write this in my capacity as managing director of Oyster Bay Oysters Pty. Ltd. We, (Oyster Bay Oysters) have been landholders and marine farmers in and around the Little Swanport Estuary for a period approaching four decades and three generations.

To give you some perspective of our operation and Marine Farming in the Municipality I offer the following:

The value of Marine farming in the Little Swanport Estuary to the local area:

- There are four commercial operations
- Three shellfish nursery operations and two that produce shellfish for human consumption.
- The bulk of juvenile oysters (spat) supplied to the Tasmanian Oyster Industry (value 24 million dollars) spends some of its life in the Little Swanport Estuary.
- There are 21 FTE employed across the four shellfish companies.
- The marine farmers in Little Swanport have long partnered with the Triabunna District School whereby students are actively involved with the culture and production of pacific oysters. These oysters are then sold and the proceeds directed to the school. The results of these activities returned \$15463:50 cash to the school for financial year ending 2019 and we are on track to generate a similar return this year.
- It has been estimated that for every dollar spent in marine farming activities there is a three to one flow on effect to the local economy.

Marine farming in the Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipality

- There are major shellfish producing areas in Dolphin Sands / Swanwick, Great Oyster Bay, Greater and Little Swanports and the Mercury Passage / Triabunna areas totalling seventeen businesses, not including finfish.
- Marine farming is a large employer in the municipality
- The bulk of these jobs are filled by younger people
- These jobs play an important role in retaining the youth and the families that surround them within the municipality and in regional Tasmania generally.

Some of the basic requirements of marine farming businesses

- A clean marine environment
- Access across the foreshore to the water
- Shore bases and processing facilities
- Employees
- Supporting businesses and communities: Maintenance for boats, trailers, tractors and machinery. Fuel, plumbers, electricians etc...

The major threat to Marine Farming is from the cumulative impacts of human activities. Effluent entering waterways, runoff, both industrial and agricultural, competing use for the marine environment. These things and the developments and activities that generate them are, or should be initially assessed for their suitability by the relevant planning systems.

Listed below the objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania and the objectives of the planning process established by the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.

1. The objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania are –
(a) to promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and

(b) to provide for the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and

(c) to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and

(d) to facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a) , (b) and (c) ; and

(e) to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of Government, the community and industry in the State.

The objectives of the planning process established by this Act are, in support of the objectives set out in Part 1 of this Schedule –

(a) to require sound strategic planning and co-ordinated action by State and local government; and

(b) to establish a system of planning instruments to be the principal way of setting objectives, policies and controls for the use, development and protection of land; and

(c) to ensure that the effects on the environment are considered and provide for explicit consideration of social and economic effects when decisions are made about the use and development of land; and

(d) to require land use and development planning and policy to be easily integrated with environmental, social, economic, conservation and resource management policies at State, regional and municipal levels; and

(e) to provide for the consolidation of approvals for land use or development and related matters, and to co-ordinate planning approvals with related approvals; and

(f) to promote the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians and visitors to Tasmania by ensuring a pleasant, efficient and safe environment for working, living and recreation; and

(g) to conserve those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value; and

(h) to protect public infrastructure and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community; and

(i) to provide a planning framework which fully considers land capability.

Further under section 5. Of the Act, ***any person on whom a function is imposed, or a power is conferred is to perform the function or exercise the power in a manner as to further the objectives of the act*** (above).

These objectives are sound and should not change under the current planning reform process. The issue is that these objectives are not always translating into outcomes on the ground... and in our case in the water and I can see no clear mechanism under the planning reform process or the Glamorgan Spring Bay Local Provisions Schedule by which to address this.

Case in point.

The recent construction and operation of a piggery in very close proximity to the Little Swanport Estuary and associated conservation area.

Under the existing interim planning scheme if one were to apply to construct a dwelling for human habitation there would be a requirement to install an effluent treatment facility of an appropriate standard.

A pig is a widely accepted human surrogate but in this case there is no requirement to assess the potential impacts that hundreds of pigs (the population of a small town) and the effluent thereof potentially have on the estuary, conservation area and river and the existing users and marine farming businesses that use them.

This is at odds with the objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania

and the objectives of the planning process established by the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act and section 42.2 of the State Policy on Water Quality which states ***“Areas designated for marine farming should be protected from adverse changes in water quality arising from adjacent land based activities or activities in the adjacent coastal area”***.

This is not a localised issue or one that hasn't been addressed in other jurisdictions. In NSW any development that is within 10km of a shellfish harvest area is referred to the NSW DPI Shellfish Program for comment. There are parallels in Tasmania. The equivalent of the NSW DPI Shellfish Program is the Tasmanian ShellMap program that sits within DPIWWE. This is a clear fit with the objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania ***“to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of Government, the community and industry in the State”***.

Clearly things are not working as they should.

In the absence of clear and concise mechanisms, functions and responsibilities under the Glamorgan Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme concerning water quality protection generally, and more specifically within the Little Swanport area (I note that under **section E11.0 of the Interim Planning Scheme that a Policy for Waterway and Coastal Protection is non-existent**) and, given the value to the Municipality of the area and businesses within it I call on the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to create a particular purpose zone and area specific plan for the Little Swanport Estuary in line with the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme requirements and associated Government policies.

Yours Sincerely,

Hayden Dyke

Managing Director, Oyster Bay Oysters. Pty. Ltd.