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Bruny Island Community Groups demand a moratorium on finfish farming expansion in the waters surrounding Bruny Island including Storm Bay

Bruny Island community groups; Friends of North Bruny Inc. (FONB), Bruny Island Community Association (BICA) and the Bruny Island Environment Network (BIEN) today announced they are joining forces to demand a moratorium on expansion of finfish farming in the waters surrounding Bruny Island including Storm Bay. The moratorium objectives are included in their joint submission regarding Huon Aquaculture, Tassal and Petuna's expansion plans in Storm Bay lodged on Wednesday 17th with the Marine Farming Branch of DPIPWE. The submission is available at <http://friendsofnorthbruny.org.au/submission/> Spokesperson for the groups Mr. Gerard Castles Vice President of FONB said,

- “We are NOT trying to stop fish farms. We want a truly sustainable approach to finfish farming in the Bruny bioregion. What we are calling for is a moratorium until such time as finfish farming is considered in relation to all other uses and users of resources in the waters surrounding Bruny Island and across Storm Bay.”
- “Our own research has shown that what is planned around Bruny is a massive expansion and we are calling on Minister, Jeremy Rockliff, to place a moratorium on finfish farming expansion until community concerns are addressed. The argument is not about marine farming per se. It is about the use, development and management of all resources in the Bioregion.”
- “These are massive industrial feedlots. The proposed industrial fish pens in Storm Bay will hold 30 million kgs of fish initially with an “aspiration” to farm 80 million kgs of fish a year. Thirty million kgs needs to be put in perspective - this is the same as a city of more than 500,000 60kg humans ‘dumping’ in Storm Bay every single day. It’s fair to say the extent of industrial fish farming planned for waters around Bruny Island including Storm Bay has shocked many residents.”
- “The Groups are concerned about the environmental impacts of massive expansion, marine safety resulting from increased fish farm traffic, noise, lights and economic impacts on established fisheries and tourism operators. These concerns are discussed in detail in the EIS submission.”
- The groups are particularly concerned about the lack of transparency, independence and consultation in the approval process. Three separate Marine Farming Plans containing 50 appendices were released for public comment when everyone is on holidays over Christmas-New Year, preventing any meaningful public comment and input. The government has provided no overarching plan for the proposed expansion but instead has been captured by three competing companies, each of whom wrote its own individual plan for its expansion in Storm Bay. This appears to be a *fait accompli* as the plans are labeled with the official Tasmanian Government logo.”
- “The call for a Moratorium is to allow for base-line scientific data to be collected and the sustainability of the three proposals examined. We want CSIRO and IMAS to do the science, not the salmon companies. No approvals should be given until an independent marine farm development plan has been developed as part of a wider plan for the use, development and management of resources across the Bruny Bioregion.”

“The Bruny Island community groups believe it’s time to stand up, says Castles, “We’re collaborating with groups from Kingborough, East Coast, South Arm and the Tasman Peninsula to demand that planning for industrial marine farm development is done transparently, is based on good science and considers all other uses and users of resources in the region. It will be an election issue,” says Castles. “We’re asking residents to **contact their local members of the Tasmanian parliament and Kingborough Councillors** to support a moratorium.

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