

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

### Petition No. 16 House of Assembly

The petitioners call on the State Government to:-

- (1) Implement all the recommendations contained in the Legislative Council Report on Finfish Farming in Tasmania
- (2) Finalise an evidence-based, sustainable and consultative Salmon Industry Growth Plan
- (3) Require the cessation of all salmon farming operations, as a matter of priority, within Long Bay (Port Arthur) and remediate the area

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION:

We are developing a new Salmon Plan which is centred on innovation, continuous improvement and world-leading practices. A plan that will be forward looking, enduring and responsive to the future, and a plan that is developed around the principles of:

- future growth lies in land-based and off-shore salmon farming;
- world's best practice through continuous improvement; and
- strict independent regulation.

The Government's *Draft Tasmanian Salmon Industry Plan* (the Draft Plan) has now been released for a period of public consultation and we encourage all stakeholders to continue to provide input and feedback to the development of the Plan, which will take effect by 1 May 2023.

Consultation to date has been extensive and inclusive, and this will continue as the plan is developed. The consultation process has included early engagement with stakeholder groups, the 2022 Tasmanian Salmon Symposium and follow up Workshop and Conversation Series both facilitated by the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre, the *Discussion Paper: Towards a 10-Year Salmon Plan* and now the recently released *Draft Tasmanian Salmon Industry Plan*.

The Government acknowledges the considerable time, effort and work of the members of the Legislative Council Government Administration Sub-Committee "A", and the many community and industry submissions that led to the release of its report.

The Government carefully scrutinised the Committee's 68 recommendations and responded to each in detail, in its formal response to the Committee tabled on 16 August 2022.

Importantly, the supporting document to the Draft Plan, the *Draft Workplan* identifies specific actions that were committed to by this Government in its response, and will be implemented.

In relation to concerns over Long Bay this Government supports decision making that is underpinned by evidence-based science and consistent with the provisions of relevant legislation.

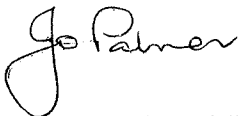
In this regard, Government does not support a reduction in existing, sustainably operated inshore finfish sites, that are subject to best practice environmental management and regulation by the independent EPA.

The results of recent research conducted by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) highlights the sensitivity of low exposure sites with reduced flushing to the effects of nutrient enrichment.

Government notes that there are already provisions in place for the EPA to regulate and manage the environmental performance of existing operational finfish lease areas, to ensure effects are managed to an acceptable level and the health of the environment is maintained.

The EPA is now preparing its response to the report, including the need for any management response.

Any changes to inshore marine farming leases in State waters will be considered in the context of the Plan and associated Workplan.



Hon Jo Palmer MLC  
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Date: 19/11/22