

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

### **TITLE OF PETITION: 'Tasmania's Salmon Industry – validation of expansion (closing 30/4/23)'**

The petition of the undersigned residents of Tasmania draws to the attention of the House:

That Tasmanians are deeply concerned about the lack of evidence to:

1. Demonstrate that the current salmon industry delivers a significant nett benefit to Tasmania and an appropriate financial return for the use of Tasmania's marine and other resources; and
2. Support the government's plan to double the annual volume of the salmon industry.

The salmon industry has been operating in Tasmania for over 30 years without a professional business plan or an independent cost benefit analysis.

The government intends to double the volume of the salmon industry (current farmgate value is \$1 billion per annum) without a business plan or an independent cost benefit analysis of the industry.

This proposed expansion will: double consumption of Tasmania's coastal waters and fresh water; double consumption of other resources and infrastructure; and magnify the negative impact on Tasmania's culture heritage, natural and scenic environments, tourism, commercial and recreational fishing and associated employment.

Your petitioners request the House to call on Government to:

- Immediately produce, and publicly release, an independent, professional cost benefit analysis of the salmon industry for the year 2021/22; and
- Prior to the further expansion of the salmon industry, produce and publicly release an independent, professional business case to justify the expansion.

### **GOVERNMENT POSITION:**

The Tasmanian salmon industry is sustainable, well-regulated and its operations are underpinned by robust processes and practices.

The industry makes a significant contribution to our economy, particularly in regional communities, having contributed \$770 million to this State in 2022.

It employs around 2 000 Tasmanians directly and supports transport, feed and many other businesses in the supply chain. It has grown to be the largest primary industry sector in Tasmania and the largest seafood industry sector in Australia.


Information on salmon industry production, value and employment is publicly available, with quarterly company production and employment data for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years readily accessible on Government's Tasmanian Salmon Farming Data Portal.

This Government's policy position on Salmon in Tasmania is clearly set out in the [Tasmanian Salmon Industry Plan](#) (the Plan), which took effect on 1 May 2023.

Government notes the public release of the Tasmanian Salmon Industry report presenting the outcomes of an independent analysis of the social and economic contributions the industry made to the State in 2022 and will consider information presented in that report, the diverse contributions the industry makes to the State, and other relevant information in the process of considering an appropriate return to the community.

Contrary to the statement made in the petition, Government policy makes no reference, either explicit or implied, to "*double the annual volume of the industry*". Rather, the Government's Plan establishes a clear, consistent and contemporary strategic policy framework that enables this innovative and successful industry to evolve and grow sustainably.

Should a proponent seek to increase production by way of increasing zoned area for marine farming operations existing planning legislation requires that such a proposal must have regard for the use and development of the region as an entity in environmental, economic, recreational and social terms.



Hon Jo Palmer MLC  
**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND WATER**

Date: 31 July 2023