

## ***Stakeholder engagement activities by segment***

### **Community segment engagement activities and outcomes**

#### *Residents and shack-owners from Bruny Island*

Representatives of Huon Aquaculture met with near-neighbours of the proposed new site on several occasions since October 2016.

Specifically, Huon met with property owners from “Waterview” and “Oceanview”. The two properties are the closest properties to the proposed lease.

Waterview has been utilised as a holiday home for approximately 7 years by the existing owner and more recently has had a barn on the site converted to tourist accommodation. Likewise, Oceanview is also utilised as a holiday home by the owners and their extended family.

Huon Aquaculture provided viewsheds of the proposed lease to help inform the engagement process. Through the engagement process a number of concerns were raised by the owners of the properties. Specifically:

- The owners of Waterview expressed concern regarding the potential visual impact that the lease would have on existing vistas from parts of the property. The owners opinion was that walks are regularly undertaken by visiting guests and would be an “eyesore” and incompatible to the tourist operation taking place. In addition, the owners expressed concern regarding; changes in seal behaviour, potential for increase shark activity, potential for light and noise intrusion from increased boat traffic and use of equipment. In addition, the owners felt it would be an intrusion on One Tree Point that they consider to be historically significant as it had one of the first telegraph poles on it. The owners requested the proposed lease be moved further south.
- The owners of Oceanview expressed concern regarding the potential visual impact the lease would have on the vistas from the home and various points on the property. In addition, the owners expressed concern regarding; potential impact from increased nutrients on local seaweed species that they collect and consume, the owners requested the proposed lease be moved further south and specifically south of Yellow Bluff.

Huon also discussed the proposal with the weetaipoona aboriginal corporation who manage the “Murrayfield” property at Trumpeter Bay. Through early discussion and consultation, Huon committed to not attempting to seek a lease in Trumpeter Bay and when considered in context of the advice received by TasPorts and MAST in relation to maintenance of searoom and clear sight lines for shipping and boating as well as biosecurity needs for the Company, drove the location of the proposed lease site.

Huon Aquaculture direct-mailed all Bruny Island residents in January 2017 regarding the proposed new lease. The community information pack contents direct mailed to residents can be found in Appendix B – 3.13.1.

In addition, information regarding the proposed changes and Huon Aquaculture's Controlled Growth Strategy was published in the Kingborough Chronicle and Huon Valley News.

Huon also scheduled a range of meetings with local community organisations on Bruny Island to provide further opportunity to the Bruny Island community to ask questions and share views and feedback on the proposal.

Outcomes of consultation with Bruny Island community organisations is provided below.

#### *Bruny Island Community Association*

Huon provided an information pack and was invited to present at and provide a briefing to the Bruny Island Community Association in February 2017. Approximately 19 members were in attendance.

#### *Bruny Island Advisory Committee (to Kingborough Council)*

Huon provided an information pack and briefing to the Bruny Island Advisory Committee in February 2017.

#### *Wider southern Tasmanian community*

Huon Aquaculture has actively disseminated information pertaining to the proposed new lease since October 2016. Specifically, the brochure shown in Appendix B was provided to media outlets and was, and continues to be, available online. Figure .I below shows an example of media coverage following the release of the brochure.

## **Offshore plan for salmon farms aired**

**ALEXANDRA HUMPHRIES**

THE future of Tasmania's fish farming industry lies offshore, Huon Aquaculture says.

The company released a document detailing plans to focus on high-energy offshore sites in Storm Bay for future expansion.

The state's salmon industry has been in the spotlight with Huon Aquaculture's rival Tassal proposing to install 28 new inshore pens holding 800,000 fish at Okehampton Bay near Triabunna.

Huon Aquaculture co-founder Frances Bender told ABC radio last week offshore farming was better for the environment, the fish and the community, and it should become the standard for fish farms in Tasmania.

Mrs Bender said Tassal's inshore development at Okehampton Bay was not good for the industry's reputation.

"Reputationally, no it's not good for the industry. I think I

would be being disingenuous if I said anything other than that," she said.

Environment Tasmania strategy director Laura Kelly said the rest of the industry should "catch up" to Huon Aquaculture.

The State Government said it would not restrict salmonid producers to offshore operations but described it as "encouraging" to see the industry exploring new opportunities.

Primary Industries Minister Jeremy Rockliff said the State Government was committed to sustainable growth in the industry.

"Whether opportunities are onshore, inshore or offshore, the Government's focus is on providing a strong planning and regulatory framework to enable sustainable management and development."

Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson cautiously welcomed Huon's plan.

A spokesman for Tassal declined to comment.

Figure I.13.1.1 - Media coverage of brochure in Tasmanian Country, page 7 (7 October 2016)

In addition, Huon Aquaculture held an Open Day on 30 October 2016 at Princes Wharf as part of its communications plan for the proposed new lease. The event was attended by over 4,000 people.

To understand community attitudes towards Huon Aquaculture's proposed new lease amongst the southern Tasmanian community more broadly, Huon Aquaculture commissioned independent research company EMRS to undertake an exit survey following attendance at the Open Day.

More than 200 Tasmanian adults were surveyed to explore current perceptions of both the salmon industry in general and Huon Aquaculture in particular following the Open Day and also to gauge awareness of changes to farming practices and Huon Aquaculture's move into offshore farming in Storm Bay. The outcomes of the research are shown in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**

### ***Aboriginal Community***

Murrayfield Station is located on Bruny Island on land adjacent to Huon Aquaculture's original Trumpeter Bay and SBI leases.

Murrayfield Station (owned by the weetaapona Aboriginal Corporation) is described on Bruny Island Accommodation Services' website as *"an iconic Tasmanian farming property on Bruny Island (Australia)...that grows premium lamb and fine wool from sheep that have not been mulesed. Murrayfield works to the ideals of valuing its rich Aboriginal cultural heritage while working as a sheep station and respecting its biodiverse environment... The station is also a venue for Aboriginal people undertaking agriculture and land management training, hosts Aboriginal cultural workshops and offers accommodation for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people."*<sup>1</sup>

Huon Aquaculture has worked closely with the weetaapona Aboriginal Corporation for a number of years and through the development of this proposal. This has included cultural awareness training for key management and staff that work in the area, presentation of information to members, and seeking direct feedback on what is proposed. Significant changes were made to the proposal as a result of engagement and are detailed in Section 4.1.3.

In addition, Huon Aquaculture is actively partnering with weetaapona to improve education and employment outcomes for young indigenous people in southern Tasmania, and develop tourism opportunities on Murrayfield.

#### **Local Government**

Huon Aquaculture has engaged with the Huon Valley Council, Kingborough Council (and the Councils Bruny Island Advisory Committee) as well as with Government authorities including TasPorts and Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST).

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.brunyislandaccommodation.com.au/bruny\\_activities.html](https://www.brunyislandaccommodation.com.au/bruny_activities.html) (18 May, 2017)

### *Huon Valley Council*

Huon Aquaculture representatives presented to the Huon Valley Council and council officers on 6 September 2016 to outline the changes contained in this proposal as well as the company's broader controlled plans. Since then, the Council has been replaced by a Commissioner and Huon Aquaculture provided a briefing to the Commissioner and council General Manager in early February 2017.

### *Kingborough Council*

Huon Aquaculture has written to Kingborough Councillors and provided the information contained in Appendix K. Information and a briefing regarding the proposal was provided to the Councils "Bruny Island Advisory Committee" in February 2017 and a summary of the outcomes is provided in the following section. In addition, Huon representatives presented information relating to the Draft Amendment to a Kingborough Council workshop in March 2017.

### *TasPorts and MAST*

Huon Aquaculture met with TasPorts and MAST on several occasions through the development of this proposal. Guidance was provided by both MAST and TasPorts in relation to "straight line navigation" up the eastern side of Bruny Island for recreational vessels and appropriate sea-room for commercial shipping.

## ***Non-government organisations***

Huon Aquaculture has emailed information packs to the following non-government organisations:

- Friends of North Bruny
- Environment Tasmania
- Tasmanian Raptor Refuge and Wildlife Park

In addition, Huon Aquaculture provided briefings to Friends of North Bruny and Environment Tasmania in early 2017 and discussed the proposal via telephone with the Tasmanian Raptor Refuge and Wildlife Park in late 2016.

## ***Commercial and recreational waterway users***

Huon Aquaculture has emailed information packs and provided briefings to the following non-government organisations. Specific additional activities for each organisation are provided below:

- Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC)

Follow-up meeting to seek further feedback on impacts to specific commercial fishing sectors.

- Tasmanian Rock Lobster Association

Follow-up meetings with local members currently fishing the area and presentation at the organisation's Annual General Meeting in October 2016 to gauge the views of the wider membership base. A further meeting and updated information, including re-drawn maps was provided in early May 2017.

- Tasmanian Abalone Council

Follow-up email providing further information requested at briefing.

- TARFish

Follow up call to seek formal position of TARFish.

TARFish also provided information regarding the proposed changes and lease chart to members via inclusion in their monthly newsletter.

Review of TARFish policy relating to expansion of salmon farming.

- Yacht Clubs

Email providing information and lease chart. Huon Aquaculture is currently seeking further engagement with Yacht Clubs.

### ***Tourism Operators***

Huon Aquaculture provided an information pack for distribution to Bruny Island Tourism Inc. members seeking feedback on the current proposal. In addition, Huon Aquaculture briefed Rob Pennicott from Pennicott Wilderness Journeys in September 2016.