

ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA - POSITION STATEMENT

The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania (RYCT) was formed from modest beginnings in 1880. The RYCT is now one of the largest Yacht Clubs in Australia. The Club has a proud tradition of competitiveness on the water and an equally strong tradition of hospitality for members and visitors at the Clubhouse. The Club has a rich history and is proudly associated with events and activities relating to keel and motorboat cruising.

The RYCT notes significant public interest in recent expansion plans for the salmon farming industry. As a member organisation with over 1800 members involved in sailing and recreational boating, the RYCT is an important stakeholder in debates about the use and management of Tasmanian waterways.

The RYCT has undertaken a survey of its membership to help refine its position in light of recent media coverage of the industry expansion plans

The RYCT recognises the importance of the aquaculture industry to the Tasmanian economy but strongly believes that a long-term sustainable industry must take in to account the legitimate concerns of all users of Tasmania's marine environment.

The RYCT acknowledges the engagement activities undertaken by the industry to date but clearly the membership of our organisation does not believe the consultation is sufficient or has adequately addressed the issues impacting on our membership community and that of other sailing clubs.

The RYCT is concerned about the impact proposed expansion plans may have its members, particular in relation to:

- Poor lighting and navigation hazards
- Increased debris in the water, some of which is a hazard to boat operations
- Potential for loss of anchorages and encroachment on cruising waters
- Impact on racing
- Impact on recreational fishing
- Impact on environmental/visual amenity

It should be noted that these concerns relate also in many instances to the existing operations of fish farms and point to areas where the industry needs to improve its performance.

Many RYCT members also hold views about the environmental impact of fish farming. The RYCT however will restrict its input and expertise to engaging with the government and salmon farming companies in areas specific to its expertise – namely yachting and recreational boating.

The RYCT recommends to proponents that they engage the Club much earlier in any proposed development process. This is particularly the case for expansion areas within approved marine development plans.

The RYCT is as an important stakeholder in any future developments impacting on Tasmanian waterways. The RYCT requests that the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and industry players commit to a process to work with the Club on improving non-statutory consultative processes.

DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared by RDME Pty Ltd (trading as RDME Consulting) for the Commodore and Committee of the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. The advice is prepared on the basis of the documentation and information provided to RDME Pty Ltd. No warranty of the accuracy or reliability of the information in this report is given. Any reliance placed by the RYCT or any other party on this information is the sole responsibility of that party. Any written or public statements by the RYCT on this issue reflect solely the views of the RY