

# s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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- The decision on the reconsideration of 2012 referral decision for marine farming in Macquarie Harbour is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water and any questions about this process are best directed the Minister for the Environment and Water's office.
- The Maugean skate species listing assessment process is a separate process to the reconsideration decision. The timing of the species listing assessment does not define the timeframe for the reconsideration decision.
- The decision on listing status of Maugean skate also is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water and any questions about this process are best directed the Minister for the Environment and Water's office.

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**Issues/sensitivities**

Yes

Huon currently operates salmon farms in Macquarie harbour (approximately five per cent of its total salmon production) and may seek your views and insights into the timing and outcome of the Minister for the Environment and Water's reconsideration decision governing salmon and ocean trout farming in Macquarie Harbour. [s. 47G\(1\)\(a\)](#)  
[s. 47G\(1\)\(a\)](#)

The Minister for the Environment and Water has sole responsibility for the EPBC Act reconsideration decision, and it is critical that no comments are made that could prejudice or otherwise be seen to influence this decision. Any questions related to this decision should be directed to her office.

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**Attachment D****Q&As*****If asked about...*****Macquarie Harbour Salmon Farming, Tasmania – EPBC Act Referral Decision Reconsideration**Decision on the reconsideration of 2012 referral decision for marine farming in Macquarie Harbour

- This is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water and any questions about this process are best directed the Minister for the Environment and Water's office.
- My understanding is that no decision on the reconsideration of the 2012 referral decision has been made and marine farming is not required to stop during the reconsideration process.
- The reconsideration is a separate process to the Maugean skate species listing assessment process. The timing of the species listing assessment (which has been extended to October 2025) does not define the timeframe for the reconsideration decision.

Decision on listing status of Maugean skate

- This is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water and any questions about this process are best directed the Minister for the Environment and Water's office.
- My understanding is that no decision on a change to the listing status for the Maugean skate has been made.
- Due to the volume and complexity of comments and new information received during public consultation, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) requested an extension to the assessment timeframe.
  - On 25 October 2024, the Minister for the Environment and Water agreed to the TSSC's request to extend the assessment completion timeframe for the Maugean skate to 30 October 2025.
- The Maugean skate species listing assessment process is a separate process to the reconsideration decision. The timing of the species listing assessment does not define the timeframe for the reconsideration decision.



Are the recently announced conservation measures a sign that salmon farming can continue in Macquarie Harbour?

- No. These announcements do not have any bearing on the Minister for the Environment and Water's reconsideration decision.
- These measures will benefit the local ecosystem and the Maugean Skate population irrespective of the outcome of the reconsideration decision.
- They build on existing environmental and species conservation research and interventions in Macquarie Harbour, some of which have been supported by the Tasmanian salmon industry.
- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is leading the implementation of these measures.

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