

BPB Macquarie Harbour / Salmon

Thursday, 27 March 2025 1:54 PM

▶ enduring partnership p.

What is the 'Enduring Partnership'? What is DAFF's role?

DAFF, along with PMC, has been engaging with salmon farm operators in Macquarie Harbour to build a partnership that can provide certainty for operations in the Harbour, reinforcing government's commitment to a productive and sustainable aquaculture industry.

In initial meetings industry has, understandably, been focussed on the amendments to the EPBC Act.

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

Our role has been to facilitate engagement with industry to canvass their interests in relation to the amendments. These discussions took place with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**Why didn't DAFF speak to industry before the Prime Minister's letter?**

We have spoken to industry on a number of occasions regarding Macquarie Harbour. While it would have been inappropriate for DAFF to discuss the EPBC Act reconsideration process being undertaken by Minister Plibersek and DCCEEW, we have always been interested in industry's perspective on steps to protect the environment and ensure the sustainable future of the industry.

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

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

RECOMMENDED RESPONSES*Prime Minister's letter*

- The Prime Minister wrote to the salmon industry outlining his commitment to introduce legislation to ensure appropriate environmental laws are in place to continue sustainable salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour. The letter also committed to this department, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, working with industry to build an enduring partnership.
- Following this letter, representatives of DAFF and PM&C have met with the salmon industry to begin establishing this enduring partnership, reinforcing the government's commitment to a productive and sustainable aquaculture industry.
 - Huon on 3 March 2025, Petuna on 1 March 2025 and Tassal on 4 March 2025.
 - Huon, Petuna and Tassal (together) on 21 March 2025.

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

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

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

Supplementary Q&As

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

Have you briefed the minister on this issue? What did you brief her on?

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

We briefed the Minister on the various interests raised by the industry relation to amendments to the EBPC Act.

Have you engaged with industry on the legislative amendments?

- My department has been leading engagement on the enduring partnership between the Australian Government and salmon farming operators for a productive and sustainable aquaculture sector, working closely with officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. During those discussions, led by Deputy Secretary Lowe, salmon farming operators conveyed their interests in relation to legislative amendments.

In what context did you become aware of the detail of the EPBC Act amendments?

- I was made aware of the broad parameters of the proposed legislative amendments through discussions with Deputy Secretary Lowe, who is leading Australian Government engagement on the partnership with salmon farming operators.

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

FISHERIES - AQUACULTURE

QUESTION: How is the Australian Government supporting the economic and environmental sustainability of the Australian aquaculture industry?

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

TALKING POINTS

Macquarie Harbour and Tasmanian salmon farming

If asked about the letter from the Prime Minister to the salmon industry date 15 February 2025

- DAFF, along with PMC, is engaging with the salmon industry to establish an enduring partnership between the Australian Government and the salmon industry, reinforcing the government's commitment to a productive and sustainable aquaculture industry.

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

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

If asked about other engagement with Tasmanian salmon companies

- While the reconsideration decision is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water, my department and I have met with key stakeholders to hear their views about aquaculture in Macquarie Harbour.
 - I met with Salmon Tasmania in August 2024 to understand their concerns and the work driven by industry to promote ecological balance in Macquarie Harbour.
 - The department also met with Salmon Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government in August 2024 to listen to their concerns and provided them with an update on the work department is undertaking to support the sector including the review of the National Aquaculture Strategy 2017.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FISHERIES - AQUACULTURE

QUESTION: How is the Australian Government supporting the economic and environmental sustainability of the Australian aquaculture industry?

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

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

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

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

If asked about engagement with Tasmanian salmon companies

- While the reconsideration decision is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water, my department and I have met

Contact Officer: George Day

Phone: s. 47F(1)

Responsible Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries and Forestry Division (ACFFD) G1

QB24-000034

OFFICIAL

Date updated: 9 April 2025 4

with key stakeholders to hear their views about aquaculture in Macquarie Harbour.

- I met with Salmon Tasmania in August 2024 to understand their concerns and the work driven by industry to promote ecological balance in Macquarie Harbour.
- The department also met with Salmon Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government in August 2024 to listen to their concerns and provided them with an update on the work department is undertaking to support the sector including the review of the National Aquaculture Strategy 2017.

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries and Forestry Division

ACFFD02**AQUACULTURE IN MACQUARIE HARBOUR AND MAUGEAN SKATE****s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

- The salmon industry is concerned because the reconsideration decision has not been made and there is no indication of when it may occur. This creates uncertainty which impacts industry's ability to contingency plan, noting the process started in June 2023.

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

Contact Officer: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
SES Lead: George Day
Last updated: 31 October 2024

Telephone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Mobile Number: s. 47F(1)
SB24-000144

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

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

Why is the department not providing assistance to the Macquarie Harbour aquaculture industry now?

- The department continues to engage with industry, and we acknowledge that the issue of most interest to industry is the reconsideration process, which is a matter for the Minister for the Environment under the *EPBC Act*.

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

Engagement with impacted stakeholders

- Noting the reconsideration decision is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water, Minister Collins and the department have supported meetings with key stakeholders to hear their concerns and views.
 - Minister Collins met with Salmon Tasmania in August 2024 to understand their concerns and the work driven by industry that is underway to achieve ecological balance in Macquarie Harbour.
 - The department also met with Salmon Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government in August 2024 to listen to their concerns and provided them with an update on future work the department is undertaking including the review of the National Aquaculture Strategy 2017.

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

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

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

What is DAFF's role in the 'Enduring Partnership'?

DAFF, along with PMC, will engage with salmon farm operators in Macquarie Harbour to build a partnership that can provide certainty for operations in the Harbour.

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

[If needed: DAFF is particularly interested in terms of our support for the sustainable growth of the aquaculture sector nationally, including additional steps that can be taken to ensure the industry has a sustainable and long term future. This is likely to include some discussion with industry and DCCEEW regarding legislative approaches announced by the Prime Minister.]

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

Why hasn't DAFF spoken to industry before now?

We have spoken to industry on a number of occasions regarding Macquarie Harbour. While it would be inappropriate for DAFF to discuss the EBPC Act reconsideration process being undertaken by Minister Plibersek and DCCEEW, we are interested in industry's perspective on steps to protect the environment and ensure the sustainable future of the industry.

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

Consultation brief – initial engagement with salmon industry

Purpose: to commence conversations with the Tasmanian salmon industry in response to the Prime Minister's letter of 15 February 2025.

Focus will be to establish an enduring partnership between the Australian Government and the salmon industry, reinforcing the government's commitment to a productive and sustainable aquaculture industry.

Objectives:

- Establish an enduring partnership between the Australian Government and the salmon industry.
 - Develop a shared understanding of the context and scope of the partnership.
 - Establish shared understanding of the importance of confidentiality of discussions.
- Respond to the industries' key interest of legislative amendment.
- I think we need to ensure there is an emphasis on legislation
- Improve our understanding of the industry's current and planned operations, both in Macquarie Harbour and nationally, to inform future government decision-making and support.
- Provide a framework to support work to amend environmental laws and take other actions to ensure the industry has a sustainable future.
- Agree on next meeting and any action items.

Talking points (Matt Lowe to Chair)

- We are committed to working in partnership to safeguard a productive and sustainable aquaculture industry in Macquarie Harbour and throughout Australia.
- Our expectation is that this partnership will inform policy development and decisions regarding ongoing support for industry.
- To ensure an open dialogue, we seek your agreement that these discussions will remain confidential unless agreed otherwise.
- Note your strong interest in discussing progress of legislative amendments.
 - [PMC to speak to legislative amendments]
- We welcome your views on how this partnership may function and its role.
- We are here to listen, and to understand where the government can assist to develop and work on steps to support sustainable aquaculture, both in Macquarie Harbour and throughout Australia.
- We are keen to hear immediate issues or suggestions today and available to meet in person within the week
 - And happy to travel to Strahan if helpful to better understand the current situation.
- [If needed: :
 - Understand current aquaculture operations in Macquarie Harbour and how the environmental impact of salmon farming activities is being monitored and mitigated?
 - What other approaches could be considered?
 - Have you been considering new ways of farming, farming locations, diversifying species or products you produce or other opportunities?
 - What are some of the barriers to pursuing these opportunities?]

Background

Enduring partnership

- DAFF is committed to working closely with state and territory governments, peak bodies and industry to support the growth and sustainable development of Australia's aquaculture industry. This includes:
 - working with the Tasmanian Government and Blue Economy CRC to allow a **trial of aquaculture in Commonwealth Waters** off the Tasmanian Coast;
 - collaborating with state and territory governments and industry to **review the 2017 National Aquaculture Strategy**.

Status of the Macquarie Harbour Oxygenation Program (MHOP)?

- This project is funded through FRDC. We have received briefings from FRDC and have observed meetings of the project's technical meeting.
 - Project is continuing on the expected timeline, moving up to the maximum amount of dissolved oxygen for the current system of ~ 4.5 tonnes per day. No adverse environmental responses have been detected.
 - Trials conclude in June with final reporting in October.
- DCCEEW is working through implementation of the Australian Government commitment of an additional \$21 million to support Macquarie Harbour oxygenation and habitat restoration.

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

Tassal

s. 47(1)(b)

Tassal was formed in 1986 and produces salmon, prawns and barramundi. Tassal's salmon operations employees approximately 1,000 staff across Tasmania.

In November 2022 Tassal was acquired by Canadian seafood company Cooke Inc. and delisted from the ASX.



Mark Ryan – Chief Executive Officer – Tassal

Mr Ryan was appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Tassal Operations in November 2003.

Huon Aquaculture

s. 47(1)(b)

Huon aquaculture was formed in 1986. It predominately produces and processes in Tasmania but expanded to Western Australia in 2021. Huon's salmon operations employs approximately 1,000 staff across Tasmania.

In 2021 Brazilian based JBS foods acquired Huon



Charles Von Der Heyde

Mr Von Der Heyde is the incoming CEO of Huon as of February 2025.

Prior to this he worked for another arm of JBS, Pilgrim's, as Senior Vice President of Commodity Risk Management, Feed Ingredient Purchasing and Export Sales.



Henry Batista

Mr Batista was appointed as CEO of Huon in September 2022 and is the outgoing CEO as of February 2025

Salmon Tasmania

Salmon Tasmania is an industry association representing Tasmania's salmon farming sector. The three salmon companies operating in Macquarie Harbour are member of the association.

Salmon Tasmania have an industry partnership agreement with FRDC, allowing for research resources to be focused into needs that address current priority investment areas.



Luke Martin, Chief Executive Officer – Salmon Tasmania

Luke Martin commenced in his role at Salmon Tasmania in June 2023. Prior to this role he was the Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Industry Council Tasmania (approximately 12 years).

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

From: s. 47F(1) @pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2025 3:49 PM
To: Dean KNUDSON; James TREGURTHA; Anna-Liisa LAHTINEN; Rachel PARRY; Bruce EDWARDS; Lowe, Matt
Cc: McCormack, Sarah-Jane; Williams, Nadine; Luchetti, Narelle; Strapp, Matthew; DEPSEC EIR Office
Subject: RE: 3pm | Catch Up: PMC/DCCEEW/DAFF [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear all

Please find below points promised yesterday on consultation. Nadine has approved.

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

- DAFF, with PM&C, engaged with salmon industry stakeholders and Macquarie Harbour salmon farm operators to understand their concerns and lessons learned from their experience of the reconsideration process, and their interests with respect to any legislative amendments.

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

Happy to discuss
s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1) | A/g Assistant Secretary

Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. s. 47F(1) e. s. 47F(1) @pmc.gov.au w. www.pmc.gov.au

Nggunawal Country, One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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

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

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

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

From: Lowe, Matt
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 8:00 AM
To: **s. 47F(1)**@huonaqua.com.au
Cc: **s. 47F(1)** @huonaqua.com.au; nadine.williams@pmc.gov.au
Subject: Initial discussions regarding partnership

Dear **s. 47F(1)**

I'm reaching out following the letter to you and other Tasmanian salmon industry leaders from the Prime Minister on 15 February 2025.

I lead the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) – we value the ongoing relationship we have with your organisation. I'd also like to e-introduce to you my colleague from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), Nadine Williams, Deputy Secretary, Economy, Industry and Resilience Group.

Further to the offer from the salmon industry to work with Government on additional steps that can be taken to protect the environment and ensure the industry has a sustainable and long term future producing high quality salmon, the Prime Minister has asked PM&C and DAFF to engage with you to build an enduring partnership that can provide certainty for operations in Macquarie Harbour.

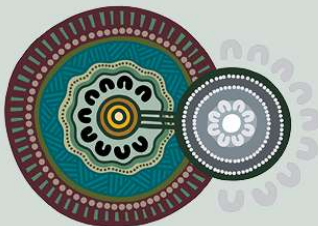
Nadine and I would welcome the opportunity to engage with you on this as we work to deliver on the Prime Minister's request. We are seeking an initial discussion with you later this week, should you have availability.

My office can be contacted on (02) 6272 2101 to arrange a suitable time. We look forward to meeting with you.

Regards, Matt Lowe

Matt Lowe (he/him)
Deputy Secretary
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Email: matt.lowe@aff.gov.au
Ph: +61 6272 5880

Executive Assistant – **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
Ph: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
Email: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@aff.gov.au
agriculture.gov.au



We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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

From: Lowe, Matt
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 8:01 AM
To: **s. 47F(1)**@tassal.com.au
Cc: nadine.williams@pmc.gov.au
Subject: Initial discussions regarding partnership

Dear **s. 47F(1)**

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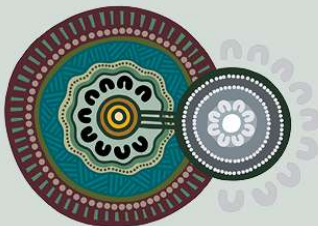
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Regards, Matt Lowe

Matt Lowe (he/him)
Deputy Secretary
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Email: matt.lowe@aff.gov.au
Ph: +61 6272 5880

Executive Assistant – **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Ph: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
Email: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@aff.gov.au
agriculture.gov.au



We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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

From: s. 47F(1) @pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2025 4:11 PM
To: Lowe, Matt; Rachel PARRY; Dean KNUDSON; James TREGURTHA; Katrina MAGUIRE; Bruce EDWARDS; Day, George
Cc: Williams, Nadine; Luchetti, Narelle; Wong, Chaudie; Strapp, Matthew
Subject: RE: Macquarie Harbour - shared points for agencies [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from christie.renton@pmc.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

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

s. 47F(1)

Progress / engagement with industry since PM letter

- Our intention to reach out to the recipients and commence a discussion as soon as possible around elements of this partnership, within the week.

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

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

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



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

Ref: MB24-000318

EVENT SUMMARY
Minister Collins

Visit to Huon Marine Farm - Tuesday 3 December 2024, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

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

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

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. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

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.

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

Clearing Officer:	George Day	A/g First Assistant Secretary, AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries & Forestry	Ph: 02 6271 6466 Mob: s. 47F(1)
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Contact Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Fisheries Branch, AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries & Forestry	Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

PDR: MB24-000321

To: Minister Collins

ISSUE: WORKING LUNCH WITH JBS AUSTRALIA – 26 NOVEMBER 2024

KEY POINTS

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

- Huon Aquaculture and Macquarie Harbour
 - Due to Huon Aquaculture's extensive presence in Macquarie Harbour, JBS Australia are highly sensitive to any potential decisions by the Minister for the Environment and Water through their review of the National Aquaculture Strategy (2017) which may materially impact their operations in the region.
 - This topic and all decisions relating to Macquarie Harbour are a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Water.

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

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

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

- 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.

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

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

ATTACHMENTS:

A: Attendees

Contact officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Director Meat Exports	Clearance officer:	Christine Mulhearn A/g First Assistant Secretary Exports and Veterinary Services
		Date:	25/11/2024

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

- The Minister for the Environment is reconsidering a 2012 approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for salmon farming activities in Macquarie Harbour Tasmania.
 - The application is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and DCCEEW, and the Tasmanian Government is responsible for management of aquaculture in Macquarie Harbour.
 - We understand that DCCEEW is working through around 2,500 submissions received as part of the consultation process on the reconsideration decision.
 - DAFF does not have any insight into the expected timing of the reconsideration decision.
 - Salmon farming can continue during the reconsideration process. However, if the reconsideration decision is that the action is a controlled action, salmon farming activities in Macquarie Harbour may need to stop while a full assessment is carried out.

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

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MB23-000317

To: Minister Watt**SALMON AQUACULTURE IN MACQUARIE HARBOUR – COMMUNITY FORUMS****Timing:** For meeting 21 November 2023**Location:** Macquarie Harbour and Strahan**Meeting:** Industry, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), Strahan Community Aquaculture Forum, West Coast Council**Prior meetings:** Salmon Tasmania**Proposed note taker:** n/a, Secretary Fennessy to accompany you**What we want:**

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

- Acknowledge the processes required by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the importance of science-based management and decision-making.

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

What they want:

- Advocate on behalf of the salmon industry and seek reassurance of science and evidence based decision-making, in particular around Maugean skate conservation.
- Note the potential impact of salmon aquaculture decisions on jobs and the community.

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

Clean-up Officer:	Emma Cully	A/g First Assistant Secretary, AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	George Day	Assistant Secretary, Fisheries Branch	Mob: s. 47F(1)

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

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

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

Attachments

A: Talking Points

B: Background

- **The salmon industry in Tasmania and operations in Macquarie Harbour**
 - **The future of salmon in Macquarie Harbour**
 - **What the community has been raising**
 - **How are the Australian and Tasmanian governments responding**
 - **Available Commonwealth and state programs**
- **Maugean skate**
 - **The National Recovery Team for Maugean Skate**
 - **Research and IMAS views**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Attachment A

TALKING POINTS

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

- Issues related to application of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act are matters for the Environment Minister.
- But I want to ensure the industry is supported as well as it can be to engage in these processes, along with any others in the community who have views which should be considered.

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

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

ATTACHMENT B

BACKGROUND

The salmon industry in Tasmania and operations in Macquarie Harbour

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

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

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

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

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

- Salmon Tasmania has stated 395 jobs are 'directly tied' to salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour. This includes direct and indirect support of jobs across Tasmania.

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

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MB23-000317

To: Minister Watt**MEETING WITH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TASMANIAN SALMON
AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY - SEPTEMBER 2023****Timing:** For meeting 11:30-11:45am on 6 September**Location:** APH**Meeting with:** Salmon Tasmania (participants TBC)**Prior meetings:****Proposed note taker:** Emma Cully

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

Clearing Officer:	Emma Cully	A/g First Assistant Secretary, AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	Ph: 02 6272 5759 Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Director, Multilateral, Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries	Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

- Salmon farming projects are subject to the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). DCCEEW is currently considering two requests to reconsider a 2012 decision allowing expanded salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour – if these requests meet specified validity thresholds, the Environment Minister (or delegate) is bound to reconsider the 2012 decision.

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MB23-000317

Attachment A

TALKING POINTS

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

- Issues related to application of the EPBC Act are a matter for the Environment Minister, however I am happy to pass any comments or questions on.

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

Last updated: 10 April 2025

Official

OFFICIAL

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

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

From: Day, George
Sent: Wednesday, 14 August 2024 7:40 AM
To: McCormack, Sarah-Jane
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Salmon Tasmania - discussion on 12 August 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi SJ,

My brief notes from Matt Lowe and our meeting with s. 47F(1) from Salmon Tasmania:

- s. 47F(1) will be meeting with Minister Plibersek and Minister Collins.
- s. 47F(1) sees more alignment between aquaculture and agriculture than aquaculture and wild capture fisheries.
- Matt Lowe noted DAFF's and Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry's role as fisheries minister. Not the regulator or decision maker under the EPCB Act.
- Salmon Tasmania agreed that in 2016 Macquarie Harbour was stressed: 2016 dry summer; hydro dams got driven hard; peak salmon production.
- Production was then regulated down to 9000t (equivalent) which Salmon Tasmania see as sustainable levels for the environment and commercially. MH has recovered since 2016 under state regulation and NCA-PM.
- Salmon Tasmania consider that it is not clear what caused the demise of the skate - cant definitively answer and Maugean skate population sampling is not complete.
- Salmon Tasmania see the 'bedlam' outcome as a Controlled Action decision under the EPBC Act – under which aquaculture becomes illegal. Lawyers looking at injunctions but ST consider a CA decision would see:
 - retailers under pressure
 - loss of social licence
 - loss of 1.5 million fish
 - economic and social impact
 - PR / perception of industry - majority of people neither strongly for or against aquaculture but a CA decision would work strongly against industry.
 - s. 47(1)(b)
- s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 - Implications for Tasmanian regulation of salmon noting that the industry complies with Tas regulation.
- Salmon Tasmania see an update to 2012 decision - NCA-PM as being able to apply new state government conditions with oxygen as the key determining factor.
- s. 47(1)(b)
 - The Oxygenation project runs out in 12 months (October next year). Questions around ongoing funding. Noted it would take 6-12 months to get new technology into Australia and scale up.
- s. 47(1)(b)
- Salmon Tasmania question whether there is a science based justification for reduction.
 - As opposed to tight adaptive management.

- On land not a viable option given cost (>\$160 million? to pick up 25% production on land but would still need to have marine grow out stage). Not commercial on west coast - you could find suitable land - but power, treatment system, release of waste water.

Looking to the future, ML noted review of the National Aquaculture Strategy which ^{s. 47F(1)} noted could consider issues such as

- Social licence
- Focus on aquaculture generally not just salmon
- The role of the Blue Economy CRC.

Kind regards

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.