



22 July 2005

Paul Lennon MHA
Premier
11th Floor
Executive Building
Murray Street
HOBART 7000

Dear Mr Lennon

I understand that the Save Ralphs Bay Inc group has been seeking to meet with you, on behalf of the broad community it represents, since April last year. I also understand that you have refused to do so.

As a concerned Tasmanian who cares deeply for our unspoiled coastline, I ask you to reconsider and have the necessary discussion with these endorsed representatives of your own Franklin constituents who fear they will not be heard on a matter of such gravity to Tasmania.

I share the view that the developer's application for Project of State Significance Status must be rejected. There are many legitimate reasons for doing so at the Cabinet table, but particularly to ensure the Derwent River's long-term health, and out of respect for the living spirit of democracy.

A canal housing estate and marina in the high conservation value mudflats in Ralphs Bay is unacceptable. As you would be aware, the Carr Government has banned canal estates in recognition of their toxic effect on the natural order of estuarine life. The Ralphs Bay tidal flats are specifically mentioned in the State of the Derwent Report 2002 as being of critical importance to the long-term health of the river estuary.

You would also be aware that your federal counterpart in Franklin, Harry Quick MP, has expressed strong opposition to the plan your government is countenancing. So too, Liberal Senator, Paul Calvert; his state Franklin colleague, Will Hodgman and the Parliamentary Liberal Party; the Greens, local, state and federal; and your own government colleague, Lin Thorp.

It makes sense that there are more members of the Parliamentary Labor Party who share this widely held view of the Walker 'vision', and I would strongly urge each Labor MP to put a work to put a stop to this project before it enters the planning system, to reject the application for Project of State Significance status on the grounds it will be to the short-term benefit of the few, at the long-term expense of the peninsula community and the Derwent estuary.

In the case of Ralphs Bay, the way forward should be clear - for the environment, your Franklin constituents, voters on the Derwent River's western shore, and coastal communities beyond because the Walker plan is the proverbial edge of the wedge.

I share the thoughts and fears of many peninsula residents, and urge you to hear what they have to say by meeting with members of the community group, Save Ralphs Bay Inc. before you sit down to decide the fate of Ralphs Bay with your colleagues next month.

Yours sincerely

Name and Address

PS: Other thoughts.....

The Premier
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Member for Franklin
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Murray St
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