



Birds Tasmania

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Bird issues, Walker Corp marina/canal proposal for Lauderdale

Resident shorebird (wader) species:

- **More than 7% of the population of Australian Pied Oystercatchers has been recorded in Ralphs Bay at one time** - the area is the second-most important site for the species in Australia in terms of numbers (the most important is the far Northwest of Tasmania).
- Australian Pied Oystercatchers are an iconic feature of the Lauderdale foreshore, are long lived (20 to 30 years), and are **faithful to the same breeding territory and mate for life**.
- Ralphs Bay meets criteria as an **internationally-important** site for Pied Oystercatchers, as it regularly holds more than 1% of the global population. The number of Pied Oystercatchers at Lauderdale has increased during the last 40 years.
- The area is used **year round** to feed and breed, and the proposal will result in the destruction of the important inter-tidal mudflats on which the birds feed.
- Walker claims **without any evidence** that these birds displaced by the construction will simply move somewhere else - but they will be unable to compete with oystercatchers elsewhere with established breeding and feeding territories. The displaced oystercatchers will be **unable** to establish new nesting and feeding territories and will likely die sooner than they should.

Migratory shorebird (wader) species:

- Ralphs Bay is the southernmost site on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, a migratory route for millions of shorebirds that fly from **Siberia and Alaska** to Australia and return every year. Despite being some 15,000km apart, **Lauderdale and Siberia are connected by these migratory shorebirds**.
- The smallest species that uses this flyway is the Red-necked Stint. These fly between their Siberian nesting areas and Southeast Tasmania - including Ralphs Bay - in just six weeks. They normally weigh 15g (about half an ounce in the old measure) then put on 10g of fat for their six-week migration. The adult birds are small enough to sit easily in the palm of your cupped hand.
- Red-necked Stints fly approximately 15,000km each way between Siberia and Tasmania on migration, spend up to six months here, then at the end of the southern summer, they return to their nesting areas in Siberia. Each bird flies at least 30,000km each year and these birds can live for more than 15 years. Over its lifetime, each 15g Red-necked Stint will fly **farther than the distance between the Earth and the Moon**.
- Several thousand Red-necked Stints migrate to Southeast Tasmania each year to feed for up to six months. Important feeding and roosting (resting) sites for stints and other migratory shorebirds are the inter-tidal mudflats at Lauderdale. The network of coastal mudflats and wetlands in Southeast Tasmania hold more than 1% of the global population of Red-necked Stints, and thus this Southeast Tasmanian network is **internationally-important**

for Red-necked Stints (as well as Pied Oystercatchers). Destroying the mudflats at Lauderdale will prevent these stints and all other shorebirds from feeding there.

All shorebird (wader) species:

- Feeding shorebirds work along the water's edge, feeding all the way out and all the way back in towards the shore with every tidal cycle. They are often unnoticed by humans when the waterline is far out on the mudflats - you may not see many birds at a time, especially the smaller species like the Red-necked Stints, but they are continually working their way back and forth across the mudflats.

Every square centimetre of mudflat is a vital feeding resource for resident and migratory shorebirds.

- At high tide, resident and migratory shorebirds need roosting (resting) habitat, to wait out the high tide until the water level drops sufficiently to resume feeding. The proposed development **will destroy the important roosting spit at Lauderdale, and all roadside roosting habitat will also be destroyed.**

Habitat destruction and the proposed habitat creation (offset):

- The Lauderdale foreshore is a **Conservation Area**, declared to protect the feeding and roosting habitat of the **hundreds of resident and migratory shorebirds that rely on the area each day of the year.**
- The Walker Corp proposal will **destroy more than half** of the feeding area used each day by the hundreds of resident and migratory shorebirds at Lauderdale.
- Walker Corp proposes to 'create' feeding habitat for the shorebirds. **BUT**, the area to be 'created' (32ha) by the most expensive and 'best' offset option, is **less than half the area that will be destroyed (70ha)**, with **absolutely no guarantee that the 'created' habitat will be viable as feeding habitat.**
- Off-set habitat compensation strategies are high risk with **no money back guarantee if they fail.**

For further details, contact Dr Eric Woehler, Chair of Birds Tasmania on 0438 204 565

For membership of Birds Tasmania, please visit www.birdsaustralia.com.au