



It's not over yet!

The bay is not yet safe and the Walker Corporation has certainly not given up its plans. There will be NO DECISION on Ralphs Bay before the 2010 state election.

**WE INVITE YOU TO OUR
FRANKLIN CANDIDATES FORUM
LAUDERDALE HALL**

8 - 9pm, Wednesday MARCH 17th

The exact day the campaign began SIX YEARS AGO

Hear from Labor, Liberal and Green candidates and ask them your questions.

Tasmanians are STILL WAITING for a Ralphs Bay decision and have every right to be concerned and suspicious about the latest delays

Walker Corporation misses planning commission deadline as election approaches

Last October, the Tasmanian Planning Commission brought out its Draft Integrated Assessment Report (DIAR). The DIAR slammed the Walker Corporation's canal estate proposal, describing it as, "a major and unacceptable intervention into Ralphs Bay." In the Draft Report, the Panel stated that the importance of Lauderdale to the Red-necked Stint and to the Pied Oystercatcher is such that it cannot recommend approval of the proposal. The Draft Report stated that the visual impact of the development (in particular in its reclamation stage and to a lesser extent thereafter) would be significantly detrimental.

Submissions on the DIAR were invited. The deadline for submissions on the draft report was last November 24th. Many members of our community made submissions by this deadline, as did Save Ralphs Bay Inc., Birds Tasmania and other groups.

Tasmanians are waiting for the Planning Commission to produce its final assessment report, bringing years of waiting to an end. However, this cannot happen any time soon, because of new delays introduced by Walker Corp. *Contd page 2*

REMEMBER 2006?

Remember what happened before the last state election? In the lead up to the 2006 state election, the proposed Ralphs Bay canal estate was suddenly 'shelved', 'on commercial grounds.' The 2006 state election campaign was fought on the understanding that Walker Corporation's proposal was no longer an issue. However, the proposal reappeared after the state Labor government was returned.

By 6 September 2006, Sue Neales reported in the Mercury, "Contrary to claims made by Tasmanian Premier Paul Lennon, Walker Corporation has admitted that its pullout from the Ralphs Bay canal housing project was always only temporary. It was also only ever about politics."

SRB 6th Anniversary

Anniversary Special

To mark this special occasion we are making a "Birthday Special Offer" on our range of superb photographs of Ralphs Bay and its bird life.

30% discount on any two photos

View the Photo Gallery at
www.saveralphsbay.org

What can you do to help save the bay?

- Write letters to the Mercury Editor:
mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au
- Call talkback radio, eg Tim Cox's 'Tasmornings', ABC 936 AM. Call 1300 222 936 or sms 199 22 936
- Lobby all party leaders and candidates. Urge them to read the Commission's Draft Report and understand the issues.
- Ask all candidates, if elected, to support detailed examination of Cassy O'Connor's *Coastal Protection (Ban Canal Estate Development) Bill 2009* by the Joint House Committee on Environment, Resources and Development. Cassy's Bill was sent to this committee by a unanimous vote in the Tasmanian Parliament last November.
- Ask candidates if they personally support a Tasmanian canal estate ban. Canal estates are banned in Victoria and NSW because of their damaging environmental impacts.
- Ask candidates if they support a strong State Coastal Policy, able to protect Tasmania's beautiful coastlines, coastal wildlife and peaceful communities from multiple threats. The state government started a review of the State Coastal Policy in 2004 and we are still waiting for the final policy to be released.

Six years on and still fighting

The campaign to save Ralphs Bay was kicked off at a public meeting in the Lauderdale Hall on March 17th 2004.

*It is now **six years on** and we are still waiting for a decision on the future of our bay, our vistas, our community and the wildlife dependent on the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area for critical feeding and breeding habitat.*

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The Walker Corporation requested, and was granted, the opportunity to make a special additional submission on the DIAR, and the Planning Commission set the deadline of Friday, March 5th, for this extra submission, months after all other submissions were in.

Now, the Walker Corporation will not make its extra submission by the March 5th deadline. Instead, it proposes to submit its additional submission on March 26th, **SIX DAYS AFTER THE STATE ELECTION**, and four months after the original deadline for submissions on the DIAR.

Walker Corporation is getting another bite at the cherry, but it does not want you or anyone else in the Tasmanian community to read its extra submission on the DIAR until the election is safely out of the way.



How can you support Save Ralphs Bay Inc?

- Come to the Franklin Candidates Forum on Wednesday March 17th, 8-9pm, at the Lauderdale Hall. Bring your family and friends. Help us pack the hall and make it clear that we've not forgotten the bay.
- Make a donation. Over 6 years, we have raised and spent over \$100 000 in our campaign to save Ralphs Bay and its wildlife. Community support and generosity has made this possible. Now, we 'only' need to raise \$5000 to pay off the very last of our legal bills from the June-July Hearings last year. However, Walker Corp. has indicated that it will seek a second round of hearings! In this 'David and Goliath' struggle, we are always hard pressed to take the fight to the developer, but we have no intention of stopping any time soon.
- Visit our website at www.saveralphsbay.org Sign in to receive emailed updates. Order SRB merchandise. Take advantage of the 6th birthday photo sales special. **Thank you for your support.**