



Since its formation after the 500 strong Public Meeting in Lauderdale on March 17, Save Ralphs Bay Inc. has been busy organizing a team of skilled and determined people, information and resources to stop the Walker project.

Our network of friends and supporters encompasses the breadth of the wider Lauderdale, Frederick Henry Bay and South Arm peninsula community, and we have offers of help from all over Tasmania and interstate. We also know there are many more Tasmanians who share the view that Ralphs Bay is not for sale.

Our common objective is to ensure Walker Corp is not permitted to buy our bay and pave the way for more environmentally insensitive development along Tasmania's unspoiled, public coastline. We believe in sustainable development that is well planned, low-key and set back from the natural coastal environment.

The Public Meeting also called on the community working group to seek a meeting with the State Government at the first opportunity. A delegation from Save Ralphs Bay Inc. will meet Environment and Planning Minister, Judy Jackson, next week. We have also scheduled a meeting with Will Hodgman (Franklin MHA) and Jeremy Rockcliff (Shadow Environment).

Our message to all our political leaders will be to protect the peace and natural values of coastal life in Tasmania by saying No to the Walker plan.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Attend a Save Ralphs Bay public meeting at 7.30pm on 5 May 2004 at the Lauderdale Hall
- Find out all the activities the working group is undertaking on your behalf to protect Ralphs and Frederick Henry Bays, the Lauderdale canal and the rest of Tasmania from invasive coastal development.
- Volunteer to help the Save Ralphs Bay community action group. Contact: Kevin Todeschini (ph 62481061) or email Ktodeschini@primus.com.au or Jane McDonald janemac1@bigpond.com There are many tasks, large and small.
- Write letters to Premier Lennon and Environment and Planning Minister, Judy Jackson, c/- Parliament House, Hobart 7000.
- Write letters to the Editor of the Mercury.
- Ring talkback radio
- Lobby Clarence aldermen and women
- Visit our website www.saveralphsbay.org

HOW WILL THE PROPOSED RALPHS BAY WALKER DEVELOPMENT AFFECT THE WIDER PENINSULA COMMUNITY?

This information is presented by Save Ralphs Bay Inc. the community action group formed after the 500 plus strong public meeting voted, with only three dissenting votes, to fight to protect Ralphs Bay

What is Walker Corporation proposing?

- To buy our bay. Did we offer it up for sale?
- An “exciting new lifestyle” for Tasmanians - a 200 berth marina and a canal style development of 800 expensive homes that invades a designated Conservation Area. Do we need a new lifestyle?
- To open a canal that will allow water and heavy metal polluted sediment can flow through to clean Frederick Henry Bay. Is it a risk we are prepared to take for our thriving oyster farming industry?
- New parks, promenades, a beach to service the marina development. For the average Tasmanian?
- Sewerage connection to the proposed marina development. How much will it cost for existing residents in Lauderdale to connect?
- A ‘new conservation area’ that excludes the nutrient rich feeding grounds required for wading birds. How many will die during the ten year construction phase? Why does Walker believe its bird experts know more about the inhabitants of Ralphs bay than Birds Tasmania, after forty years of study?

What is Walker Corporation promising?

- To consult with the community on the “shape” of the development. Don’t we want a say in whether or not we want the development?
- To bring in local, national and international experts to address the issues. Why? What is wrong with the expert advice already available on our birds, heavy metal pollution, ocean movements and coastal protection?
- Expert advice on all the issues raised. Who will challenge “expert” advice bought by Walker when that advice differs from the Government’s own expert advice?
- A 3-month consultation period. This is a farce. What is the use of a public consultation period if Walker is unable to answer the concerns raised by the community? How balanced will the developer’s consultation report to government be?

What would this mean for us?

- The loss of public coastline. If the Walker project goes ahead and Ralphs Bay is sold to service the wealthy, what precedent is set for the future sale of our bays and beaches?
- The Walker brochure doesn’t specify. Will we lose our skateparks and recreation areas along the two bays, and the canal? Where will the windsurfers go?
- Will a deeper, steep-sided canal be a drowning hazard for our kids?
- How will they get to school from the southern side of Lauderdale? What about the Mums with prams? Through the tunnel? Will we be able to walk the length of Roches Beach or even around the canal?
- Will the opening of the canal increase erosion to the Frederick Henry bay dunes and introduce rips through the canal because of tidal differences?
- Will heavy metals from Ralphs Bay threaten the clean waters of Frederick Henry Bay and its oyster farms? Is it a risk we can afford to take?
- How will our lives be affected by invasive engineering structures and continued dredging to keep the canal functional?
- How will our roads cope with the enormous increase in traffic? And who will pay for the necessary upgrades? Walker has said it can’t afford to...
- What will we tell our children and grandchildren if the birds decide they cannot survive the ‘new conservation area’ and leave Ralphs Bay forever?
- Canal development in coastal areas is legally banned in NSW because of the profoundly damaging effect it has on the environment. Queensland is moving sharply away from this style of development for the same reasons.
- If this development goes ahead it will pave the way for more threats to our fragile coastline.

www.saveralphsbay.org

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