



Save Ralphs Bay Action Group Inc.

ABN 59536279047

PEOPLE POWER

We are appalled that the Tasmanian Government is even considering allowing Walker Corporation to destroy a conservation area and build a marina/canal style development on Ralphs Bay. Residents of Lauderdale, the Peninsula, and concerned people from across Tasmania have voiced their anger and dismay at this environmentally toxic proposal, to politicians, talkback radio and newspapers. The Ralphs Bay issue has also received national print and radio coverage.

The Save Ralphs Bay Action Group Inc. draws enormous inspiration from the many hundreds of people who support the campaign to save Ralphs Bay.

Scores of individuals have contributed their valuable time by writing to and lobbying politicians, staffing stalls, planning information nights, holding placards on the roadside and producing and delivering newsletters. Hundreds more have actively supported public information nights and our Expo Day, donated money, purchased and displayed car stickers, visited our stall outside Walker's shopfront and recorded their concerns in our Save Ralphs Bay book. They are saying NO to Walker Corporation's greedy proposition.

The State Liberals do not support the Walker plan, nor does Harry Quick MP. The Green's Nick McKim has condemned it from the start. And we know that there are State Labor MPs who share this common view. We must continue to lobby and inform our elected Franklin representatives – Paul Lennon, Lara Giddings and Paula Wriedt – to reject this aggressive and destructive proposal.

Let them know that we have made up our mind.

Our conservation area is priceless.

**Our bays, our beaches and our lifestyle
are not for sale.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE AT 7.30PM
AT LAUDERDALE HALL**

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr Peter Nuttall: the adverse effects of canal estates; the impact of residential tidal canal developments in Australia; and the implications for the proposed Walker Corporation development in Ralphs Bay.

Kaye McPherson: an aboriginal perspective.

Phil Newsome: Real estate agent for 35 years on the Gold Coast who understands the problems relating to canal estates in Queensland and the psychology of big developers.

Questions from the public will be welcome

The Save Ralphs Bay Action Group Inc. will report on the activities of the group.

Further actions and plans will be decided.

Save Ralphs Bay Action Group Inc. (SRBInc.) is the community action group formed after the 500 plus strong public meeting voted on 17 March 2004 to fight to protect Ralphs and Frederick Henry Bays

Our current chair is Bill Edmunds
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WHY SHOULD WE VALUE THE ECOSYSTEMS OF RALPHS BAY & FREDERICK HENRY BAY?

What's so special about the sandflats of Ralphs Bay?

- ◆ Many people find tidal flats unattractive (except for those wonderful sunset & sunrise reflections!)
- ◆ However, to those "in the know", every teaspoonful of sand and the black mud beneath is part of a teeming community of living things in an ecosystem providing essential services.
- ◆ In spite of Walker's claim that Ralphs Bay is a degraded area, all available reports show that it is a thriving ecosystem.

What are ecosystem services?

- ◆ Ecosystem services include storm protection, flood control, nutrient cycling, providing nurseries for fish stocks, habitat for resident and migratory species, human recreation and cultural value.
- ◆ In recent years, science and economics have met up, and ecosystem services are now being valued in cash terms.
- ◆ Estuaries (like the Derwent) have been calculated to be by far the most valuable ecosystems in the world because of the services they provide – way more valuable than even forests and grasslands.

Why are tidal flats so valuable?

- ◆ Tidal flats like the area Walker plans to excavate and build over protect the shore from erosion and flood damage.
- ◆ Tidal flats moderate water temperatures – important for the whole Derwent River.
- ◆ The mud under the sand in tidal flats keeps the river water healthy and clean - it contains vast amounts of special microorganisms that play important roles in nutrient and organic matter cycling, denitrification and other biogeochemical processes.
- ◆ The sea washes nutrients & particles from the land and river over the sand flats, & these sediments are deposited as the waves slow down. In the soft, nutrient-rich sediments, communities of diverse ranges of animals are found. Some live on the surface, but some burrow into the ground or bore tubes and hollows.

- ◆ Some species can reach amazing densities. In one study, 100,000 mud snails were found in a square metre of mudflat.
- ◆ To fit into the space, the animals live in layers at different depths. Burrowing snails and other molluscs, and a variety of worms each make their homes at different levels in the muddy sand.
- ◆ The animals in the sediments provide food for crabs, fish, and birds.
- ◆ As the tide comes in, the young stages of fish swim over the food-rich sand, finding the essential nutrients they need to grow. Without these special nurseries, fish stocks would decline.
- ◆ When the tide goes out, the resident and migratory wader birds walk over the sandflats, following the water's edge and feeding on the animals in the mud. The shape of each bird's bill is perfectly adapted to probe for its particular food animals in the mud beneath the sand.

What will happen if Walker is allowed to excavate the tidal flats?

- ◆ Vacant niches are hard to find in nature! Every other scrap of tidal flat in the Derwent Estuary is already supporting the exact number of creatures that can live and feed on it.
- ◆ If the Walker Corporation succeeds in its aim of excavating out the sandflat ecosystem at Lauderdale and the substrate that supports it, this ecosystem will be destroyed.
- ◆ Although some of the birds and fish that depend on Ralphs Bay might be able to push their way into other areas of suitable habitat, this would only be at the expense of other individuals who would be pushed out of their niche (and starve).

What about other important species in Ralphs Bay and Frederick Henry Bay?

- ◆ There is a confirmed colony of the critically endangered Spotted Handfish inside Ralphs Bay. This is already in danger of becoming Australia's first (known) extinct marine fish. Why risk pushing it over the edge by stirring up the heavy metals in the lower sediments?
- ◆ The endemic viviparous sea star on Bambra Reef on Roches Beach is already on the threatened species list – why risk burying this low reef with shifting sand if the canal is reopened?