

Shoalhaven Oyster Service
Brian & Barry Allen

RE: OBJECTION TO CULBURRA LAND DEVELOPMENT.

As oyster farmers in the Shoalhaven/ Crookhaven River Estuary we object to the proposed West Culburra development.

The industry is regulated by NSW Fisheries (DPI) and NSW Food Authority, we strongly believe the proposed development would add on and cause more issues for our estuary which we continually work with everyday.

Our main concern with this development is the effect it will have to maintain a high level of water quality for this estuary. We take water samples after minor and major rain events and for bio-toxins and algae. We believe with such a development significant amounts of storm water from this development would negatively impact this estuary and diminish the considerable amount of work undertaken by the oyster farmers through our Quality Assurance Program (QAP), as well as local council who also undertake water monitoring as well.

Such impacts would dramatically reduce the amount of days that we can harvest, especially during and after rain events. After rain events significant amount of fresh water remain in the river, which prolong the closure period for harvesting and can cause mortality of the oysters. It can often take several days up to three months to regain water quality in these areas for harvesting.

After a certain amount of rain, it is called the 'The first flush' where this is the first impact for bacteria coming off the streets and directed by kerb and guttering to the river. We have noticed that in some harvesting areas, due to urbanisation and completion of kerb and guttering it is more significant.

We as farmers have a large and significant investment into our farms, which employ a number of people in our local area. Other estuaries which have also been affected by poor water quality such as Georges River and Hawkesbury River, are now no longer viable oyster producing rivers.

Yours Sincerely
Brian & Barry Allen.