

Submission

No 12

INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER

Organisation: Steinhardt's Oysters

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Date Received: 15/12/2011

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12th December 2011

NSW Legislative Assembly
Committee on Environment and Regulation
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

This is a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into the management of domestic wastewater.

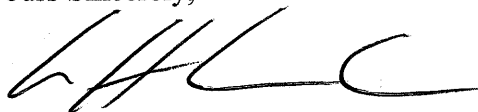
The harvest of oysters for human consumption from the Brunswick River has been prohibited by the NSW Food Authority since 2000, due to the risk to human health posed by discharges of raw sewerage and the location of the Ocean Shores sewerage treatment plant outfall. Byron Shire's head of water and sewerage dismisses any responsibility for this inability to harvest for human consumption to the oyster farmers by justifying himself in saying he is in compliance with the regulations.

State Environmental Planning Policy 62 (sustainable aquaculture) is policy especially designed to preserve and enhance the environment so as to have oyster farming as a priority outcome. There are people within the division of fisheries whose job it is to implement sepp 62. It appears they are consistently failing the oyster farmers of the Brunswick River.

I could provide exacting details to this situation in the Brunswick River, but ultimately it will not resolve the issue. Oyster farmers will still not be able harvest oysters for human consumption, out of the Brunswick River, once this enquiry is finished and the results published. There is nothing to be gained by being part of this process. Ultimately it will just cost me time that I will not be paid for, and a zero result. It is ironic that oysters can not be harvested out of a dedicated marine park. It appears the marine environment is being preserved for the disposal of effluent from Byron Shire's Water and Sewerage department.

Good luck with your gabfest at the tax payers expense. As an end user's, you will not be helping us in any meaningful way.

Yours Sincerely,



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