



TASMANIAN ALLIANCE for MARINE PROTECTION

www.tamp.org.au tasmarineprotection@yahoo.com

Co-Chair: Peter George 0426 150 369,

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The Tasmanian Alliance for Marine Protection (TAMP) accuses the government of hiding from voters plans to introduce massive industrial salmon feedlots to new areas of the Tasmanian coastline.

The state's leading voice on marine protection says the government has broken a promise it made last year by deliberately avoiding telling voters before Election Day where Big Salmon's next sea grab will take place.

"Big Salmon is demanding new leases on our public waterways to fulfil massive expansion plans," says TAMP co-Chair, Peter George. "The government knows just where that's going to happen but doesn't want voters to know until after the election.

He says the government needs to tell voters now if credible reports of a swathe of the island's northern coastline are to be set aside for new salmon feedlots.

"It's cowardice and dishonesty to hide which of Tasmania's coastal communities will be the next to host the voracious industrial salmon companies, Huon Aquaculture, Tassal and Petuna."

In an ABC radio interview last December, minister Guy Barnett said the red line "No Grow Zones" around the state were under review and "during this process there will be public consultation .. umm .. and that will be made available in the first quarter of next year [2021]."

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/hobart/programs/mornings/guy-barnett-says-there-will-be-no-additional-salmon-farms/12960300>

"That is already a broken promise - another deadline come and gone with not one word during this election campaign," says the TAMP co-Chair, Mr George.

"In light of Richard Flanagan's scathing exposé of Big Salmon in his just-published book, *TOXIC, The Rotting Underbelly of the Tasmanian Salmon Industry*, it's now more clear than ever voters need to know where Big Salmon, enabled by complicit politicians and bureaucracy, will strike next.

"Let's be clear, communities around the state have discovered that along with the massive floating feedlots come noise, lights, 24-hour a day operations, marine debris and algal blooms that smother the life out of reefs, spawning grounds and sea life.

"Flanagan's book, *TOXIC*, reveals the arrogant nature and damaging practices of an industry that TAMP and its allied community and business organisations have long accused of being a threat not just to our waterways but to Tasmania's image as a producer of the highest quality, sustainable food products.

"TAMP calls on both Liberal and Labor parties to tell Tasmanians before Election Day just what deals they've done with Big Salmon - it's the right thing to do and it's our right to know.

"We need real regulation, transparent operations and transition out of public waters and into land-based aquaculture that is already a trend on every continent except Australia."

For more information: Peter George 0426 150 369