

# Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 1550 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia

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Our Ref: EPA RTI 016/2022-23



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

8 June 2023

Meg Webb MLC  
Member for Nelson  
3/32 Channel Highway  
Kingston TAS 7050

Via email: [meg.webb@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:meg.webb@parliament.tas.gov.au)

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION DECISION

I refer to your application made pursuant to the Right to Information Act 2009 (the Act), received by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 1 May 2023. Specifically you requested:

- “1. *Correspondence, records of any meetings, and electronic messages (e.g. WhatsApp, Teams, Messenger etc) between EPA Tasmania and salmon industry representatives (including but not limited to: Tassal, Huon Aquaculture, Petuna and/or Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association, or any of their consultants/representatives/lobbyists between 1 January 2020 and today's date regarding:*
  - (a) the draft Environmental standards for Marine Finfish Farming (Environmental Standards);*
  - (b) the Environmental Standards Working Group and/or the Environmental Standards Working Group recommendations;*
  - (c) the Review of Tasmanian and International Regulatory Requirements for Salmonid Aquaculture.*
2. *The attendees and number of meetings between the EPA and salmon industry representatives (including but not limited to: Tassal, Huon Aquaculture, Petuna and/or Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association, or any of their consultants/representatives/lobbyists regarding:*
  - (a) the draft Environmental Standards;*
  - (b) Environmental Standards Working Group recommendations;*
  - (c) the Review of Tasmanian and International Regulatory Requirements for Salmonid Aquaculture.*
3. *Documents relating to the Environmental Standards Working Group, including its final recommendations;*
4. *All previous drafts of the Environmental Standards prior to their publication for public comment on 2 February 2023.”*

- with a timeframe specified as '1 January 2020 to 1 May 2023'.

On 11 May 2023, the scope of the following parts of your application were clarified and/or refined to:

- “3. The “Environmental Standards Working Group” refers to the group referred to in the Review of Regulatory Requirements for Marine Based Salmonid Aquaculture by EPA Tasmania. Except for those documents which have been released under RTI083, we seek:
  - notes from meetings of the Environmental Standards Working Group; and
  - correspondence or documents outlining the recommendations of the Environmental Standards Working Group.
4. Any drafts of the Environmental Standards that were provided to salmon industry representatives or amended following consultation with salmon industry representatives prior to their publication for public comment on 2 February 2023.”

Your application was accepted on that date.

Section 7 of the Act gives a person a legally enforceable right to be provided, in accordance with the Act, with information in the possession of a public authority or a Minister unless the information is exempt information. The EPA is a public authority under the Act.

The EPA searched its records and found 80 pages of information relevant to your request. This includes:

- 37 pages in Part 1 of the information package, in response to Item 1 in the scope;
- 1 page of content in Part 2, which was generated in response to Item 2;
- 42 pages in Part 3, in response to Item 3 (as refined); and
- 0 pages that were responsive to Item 4 of the scope.

Part 1 of the information package contains a number of scans of handwritten notes from relevant meetings. Further information about those documents is provided as Appendix 1 to this letter.

Please note, I have also removed from Parts 1 and 3 of the information package:

- emails that related solely to the logistics of meetings;
- emails that introduced relevant personnel without any other substantive content; and
- pages which contained only material which was out of scope of the application.

I have also redacted personal information without consultation or assessment on the assumption that you do not require this information and it is therefore outside the scope of your request. If this is incorrect, please let me know and I will conduct an assessment and make a decision accordingly.

I have assessed the information against Part 3 of the Act to determine whether any of it is exempt information. I have decided the information be released to you in full.

## **Review Rights**

You have the right under s 43(1) of the Act to apply for a review of this decision. To apply for a review, you must write within 20 working days of receiving this notice, addressing your correspondence to:

Wes Ford  
Chief Executive Officer  
GPO Box 1550  
Hobart TAS 7001

You may email your application to: [RTI@epa.tas.gov.au](mailto:RTI@epa.tas.gov.au). When sent via email, this decision is taken to have been received by you upon receipt of a delivery notification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heather Neate', written over a faint rectangular stamp.

Heather Neate

**Delegated officer under the *Right to Information Act 2009***

Encl.

## **APPENDIX I: Contents - Information Package Pt.I**

Page 8	Notes taken by EPA at TAG meeting on 17/09/2020 – author not disclosed
Page 9	Notes taken by Mark Churchill at TAG meeting on 10/12/2020
Pages 10-11	Notes taken by Steve Gallagher at TSGA meeting on 11/03/2021
Pages 12-13	Notes taken by Raymond Bannister at TSGA meeting on 24/06/2021
Page 14	Notes taken by Steve Gallagher at TSGA meeting on 14/12/2021
Pages 20-21	Notes taken by Darryl Cook at meeting with TSGA on 27/07/2023
Page 26	Notes taken by Raymond Bannister at TAG meeting on 01/12/2022
Page 36-37	Notes taken by Darryl Cook at meeting with SalmonTas on 22/03/2023