Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 7678
Email: barnett.correspondence@dpac.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Government

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Mr Peter George MP
Member for Franklin
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr George Peter

In the House of Assembly, you asked the following question:

> ***My question comes from a constituent from Blackmans Bay who regularly watches large salmon well boats moving up and down the Derwent Estuary. They want to know if these boats discharge the contaminated water, including faeces, disease treatments and antibiotic residue, directly back into the marine environment and, if so, what monitoring and reporting requirements apply to those discharges.***

The discharge of water, from well boats, including ballast and bathing water is strictly controlled under different regulatory frameworks that address biosecurity and environmental risks.

The movement of and discharge of bathing water from well boats is strictly regulated under the Biosecurity Program for the Salmonid industry administered by Biosecurity Tasmania. This includes restrictions imposed on well boat regarding the location and manner in which bathing and ballast water is discharged from these vessels.

Well boat operators must ensure that well boats are subject to an effective cleaning and treatment program that includes bathing tanks, fish movement pipelines and decks.

No bathing water from a well boat is permitted to be discharged into water outside the boundary of a marine farm operated by the producer unless it is discharged more than four (4) kilometres from the boundary of any marine farm.

Furthermore, the EPA has implemented waste management requirements derived from the Government's *Environmental Standards for Tasmanian Marine Finfish Farming 2023* into Environmental Licences.

These requirements include the development of Waste Management Plans that address the management of waste streams from marine farming operations, including the location and manner in which bathing water and vessel biosecurity washdown water is released.

The EPA Director has approved Waste Management Plans from each of the three companies conducting marine salmon farming in Tasmania. The plans are published on the EPA website. Under

these plans, fish bathing water is released within fish farm leases, of which there are none in the Derwent Estuary.

Use of antibiotics and other therapeutants must be notified to the EPA and is made public via the EPA web site, together with the results of therapeutant residue monitoring.

Thank you for your question.

Yours sincerely



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change