



22 May 2015

Dear Committee,

I apologise for taking up the committee's time with this amendment, but consider it imperative that Marine Produce Australia Ltd (MPA) publically respond to the use of its name in the submission by Mr John Hutton's Maxima Opportunity Group on behalf of Aarli Mayi.

To clarify MPA's position:

- MPA does not support or endorse any comments made by Mr John Hutton
 - MPA formally distances itself from any and all comments and opinions presented by Mr Hutton
 - MPA has not had any discussion with Mr Hutton or associated entities regarding the development of alternative wharf or infrastructure locations, or the growth of MPA's business, and as such disclaims any actions attributed to MPA in Mr Hutton's submission
- MPA has no direct association with Mr Hutton, and he has no authority to speak for MPA
- Mr Hutton and his family are some of the 800+ shareholders in MPA – none of whom have any authority to represent MPA
 - Maxima Pearling (Hutton Family) does hold the Dept. of Lands lease over the island that MPA uses as its land base in Cone Bay – the permitted use of that lease is Land base in support of Aquaculture and Pearling, and the DoL charges Maxima Pearling ~\$7,000 per annum. Since 2006 Maxima Pearling has charged MPA \$35,000 per month (\$420,000 per annum) to access that island. MPA has been the sole occupant on that island since 2009
 - There is no active pearling operation in Cone Bay (not since 2008). There are unused pearling leases in Cone Bay (held by Maxima Pearling), and the Licenced Pearl Hatchery building referred to in Mr Hutton's submission has been used as MPA's fish feed storage shed since 2009
 - MPA fully supports the development of the Derby Wharf and Derby Township as the logistics hub for the expansion of MPA's Cone Bay farm. MPA considers the expansion and development of existing infrastructure (wharf, roads, etc) to be the most prudent use of limited resources
 - The Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone is for the production of 20,000 tonnes of finfish. MPA holds the only existing lease in that zone, and that is for the production of 6,990 tonnes. That leaves 13,010 tonnes available for application by MPA and other entities. Mr Hutton's continued claim that he will apply for 15,000 tonnes is fallacious.
 - All Intellectual Property pertaining to growing Barramundi in sea cages in Cone Bay belongs to Marine Produce Australia Ltd. That includes cage design, cage anchoring systems, feeding systems, cage cleaning technology, and animal husbandry techniques. MPA will fully protect its IP from any who seek to use it without authorisation.

MPA has taken 10 years, and spent over \$100million, to develop its farm in Cone Bay: any suggestion that starting a new farm will be simple, inexpensive, or readily profitable, is incorrect.

Sincerely,

Dr Desiree Allen
Managing Director