

SUBMISSION OF CLIFF MARCHANT

1. My name is Cliff Marchant, I'm a pilot and have lived at Te Anamāhanga/Port Gore for 35 years. I represent the only other resident and several bach owners and users within the bay, and also speak for KCSRA (of which I am a member). My wife Diane and I founded Sounds Air in the 80's and presently operate Pelorus Air, providing scenic flight tours and air access into remote parts of the Marlborough Sounds.
2. I have submitted on dozens of resource consent applications since 1992 including mussel farms, forestry and salmon farms, mostly in or around Te Anamāhanga/Port Gore. The most rewarding aspect for me has been the ability to help achieve recognition for the huge values of a remote wilderness like Te Anamāhanga and the Outer Sounds, and that low visitor numbers actually enhance these values. I'm somewhat humbled by the shift in decision results since the late nineties from Council, the Environment Court and even the Supreme Court endorsing these values for everyone. Prior to that, the antiquated attitude was, out of sight, out of mind, affecting few people so go for it.
3. While this application is outside the actual bay, Cape Lambert and the northwest of Te Anamāhanga/Port Gore is the closest point. The closest resident is probably Paul Eglinton, with the Harvey cottage being a similar position and distance from the proposed farm. Both these properties are elevated by a few hundred feet, and their somewhat grand front view is directly towards the proposed farm, unhindered by Cape Lambert.
4. For Paul and the Harveys, most of the time the farm, being 12km away, may be hard to see, hear or smell, but in the context of the existing wilderness the effects, at times, would, I believe, be dramatic for the values they cherish. *See attached location map for Paul/Harveys, with photos*
5. On a calm, clear night this entire area is completely quiet and devoid of any lights or sound except for the odd infrequent transient boat or ship. The presence of permanent structures emanating both generator noise and navigation/underwater lighting would, I believe, completely change these wilderness qualities.
6. It is the calm clear days and evenings, in an otherwise pretty wild environment, that are particularly valued by those of us who choose to inhabit this remote area, and is becoming an increasing rarity for those who may seek it in the future.
7. It is the permanence of these proposed structures and their effects which, although maybe only briefly noticed, would provide a continuous repetitive reminder that this wilderness would now have an industrial presence, and that the values that have prevailed here forever, would have now been completely changed.
8. The actual extent of the effect of lighting and noise is very difficult to accurately assess from the data provided. What may seem to be reasonable in the working areas of Pelorus Sound and Tory Channel in the presence of other activities becomes much more dominant in these remote areas.
9. My experience with aquaculture here in Te Anamāhanga /Port Gore is that – what has been consented bears little resemblance to what actually occurs. And that what follows is an amendment to consent to reflect the reality of what has been built, and that the consent would probably never have been given if this incremental approach had been established at the initial hearing.

10. A major difficulty for Council is the remoteness and the logistics of monitoring activity out here to ensure compliance with consents and conditions. We still have a mussel farm in Pig Bay that expired nearly 3 years ago, operating completely as normal, with no compliance enforcement on the horizon. My observation is that this proposed farm will be even further beyond any capability of regulatory governance.
11. Our group has voiced concerns about any farm equipment or support vessels and their effects in Te Anamāhanga/Port Gore should this application be approved. The applicant has agreed to conditions preventing such use of the bay.
12. Pelorus Air provides scenic flights for tourists over the Marlborough Sounds. The most popular flight is the 45 minute "*Water and Wilderness*" scenic tour which originates at Picton Airport, initially crossing Picton township and inner Queen Charlotte Sound (characterised by many holiday baches with jetty access), over Kenepuru Sound (characterised by a mix of baches and mussel farms), then over inner Pelorus Sound (characterised by land farming, forestry and marine farming), before arriving at the spectacular tidal river at French Pass. From here the flight turns north towards the Chetwode Islands, land and marine farming gradually gives way to the exposed headlands of the Outer Sounds and Islands, very few buildings or jetties, before crossing Cape Lambert and descending into Te Anamāhanga/Port Gore for a landing at this remote airstrip. A 20 minute stop at the beach, then airborne again to cross Cape Jackson and into Outer Queen Charlotte Sound (characterised by bush clad islands, Ship Cove, very few buildings or jetties and definitely no marine farming) tracking up Queen Charlotte with views over Arapawa Island to Tory Channel (characterised by land farming, pine forestry and marine farming) and on into Picton Airport.
13. From the flight position 1000 feet above Cape Lambert on descent into Te Anamāhanga, there is no doubt that the proposed circular pens and barge will be plainly visible as an atypical contrast to this landscape.
14. I am concerned of the potential effects on recreational fishing and diving. I personally have fished at McManaway rock several times a year for the past 35 years. There are usually a few other boats doing likewise as I only visit on really calm settled days, and one can only stay a few hours before the tide rip sets in. Will there be a down-tide effect from the proposed farm on the McManaway Rock system?
15. Will there be an increase in seal activity around the headlands of Capes Jackson and Lambert, both popular diving spots for our family and many others?
16. In summary, while the application site and surrounding areas are remote, difficult to get to and therefore seldom visited, they have unique landscape, amenity and recreational attributes well worth preserving. My 40 odd years of flying passengers over and into the Sounds have given me a bird's eye view of how other areas of the Sounds wilderness qualities have been eroded by this type of commercial activity. The Te Anamāhanga/Port Gore area has escaped most of these consequences with the benefit of sound decision makers recognising the true values therein.
17. This application should also be declined