



Tasmanian Oyster Industry Position for the 2024 Election

Tasmania's oyster farmers are locals who directly employ more than 320 Tasmanians across regional Tasmania.

We sustainably produce more than \$43 million worth of oysters each year.

Our product is a delicacy of which Tasmania can be proud.

In light of our unique service to Tasmania's environment, our shouldering of costs from the pollution of others, our heavy fee burden, and our untapped growth potential, we request each party to commit to the following support and investment, totalling \$2.5 million over four years.

- \$925,000 in cuts to fees on oyster farmers, reflecting their protection of recreational fishers from biotoxin risks, and that licence fees exceed full cost recovery levels.
- \$640,000 to Oysters Tasmania to assist the Government's food safety regulator and to promote Tasmanian trade and tourism.
- \$555,000 to Tasmania's Natural Resources and Environment Department to track diseases and sources of pollution affecting oysters.
- \$380,000 to support the breeding of oysters suited to Tasmania's changing climate.
- A commitment to work towards:
 - our water leases being secure property rights we can borrow against,
 - the planning scheme being supportive of our access to land bases, and
 - Pipe Clay Lagoon farmers being supported in the face of a sustained decline in the Lagoon's productivity.

We will work with the next Parliament to sustainably grow Tasmania together.

Contact: Duncan Spender, CEO, Oysters Tasmania, ceo@oysterstasmania.org, 0401 065 131.

Tasmanian oyster industry four-year support and investment request	
Cut to ShellMAP levy reflecting IMAS-assessed value of oyster farmers' protection of recreational fishers from biotoxin risks.	\$395,000
Cut to fee for oyster farming licence from 835 to 100 fee units reflecting limited costs of administering licences (noting separate charging for lease-related and food safety services).	\$530,000
Sub-total of fee cuts	\$925,000
Retention of achieve-more-with-less food safety model through continuation of industry-regulator liaison manager.	\$450,000
Promoting Tasmania through oysters at trade shows, award events, niche product placement, and farm gate experiences.	\$190,000
Sub-total of Oysters Tasmania support	\$640,000
Testing for Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome ('POMS') to definitively ascertain where it is and to contain it.	\$55,000
Tracking pollution that harms oyster farmers from Tasmania's residential, agriculture and industrial sectors, to start conversations supportive of Brand Tasmania.	\$500,000
Sub-total of Departmental support	\$555,000
Support for the grower-owned oyster breeding company to maintain operations in Tasmania (at IMAS, Tarooma).	\$380,000
Total over four years	\$2.5 million

Further details are available in our budget submission:

https://www.oysterstasmania.org/uploads/1/1/1/5/111586309/231130_oysters_tasmania_submission_to_24-25_tasmanian_government_budget.pdf