



Media Release
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Tassal stands behind science of sustainable salmon farming

The ABC's Four Corners program which went to air last night made certain statements about the sustainability and transparency of the Tasmanian salmon industry, Tassal managing director and chief executive officer Mark Ryan said.

"It is disappointing that a proper consideration of the relevant science was the first casualty of the story. It is also disappointing that a competitor's directed scientific research, only on its leases, were presented as evidence of and generalisation about the sustainability of the whole of Macquarie Harbour," he said.

"We have advised Spring Bay Seafoods and have stated publically and unequivocally that Tassal will not be developing any leases in Mercury Passage. Our science, which we have been conducting for the last two years, supports a sustainable Salmon farming operation in Okehampton Bay."

Mr Ryan said the Four Corners program also referenced the industry's feed ingredients.

"FSANZ has advised Tassal that, as Astaxanthin is an additive to the feed given to farmed fish, there is no labelling requirement in the Food Standards Code that would apply," he said.

"The important point to note is that the Astaxanthin is safe for people and safe for fish."

Mr Ryan said that Tassal had previously made a number of public statements about the sustainability of its operations, its compliance with regulatory requirements and the sincerity with which it engaged with scientists and environmental groups to continually improve its practices.

"Four Corners has disregarded Tassal's independent science and the reputation of Tassal and its employees.

"These statements were not made lightly, and are backed up by independently generated, peer reviewed science and respected professional organisations such as the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC).

"Tassal has been certified to ASC for over three years at all its farming locations."

Mr Ryan reiterated Tassal's commitment to continually improving its farming practices, protecting Tasmania's marine environment, supporting its employees and producing a healthy premium and food safe product for consumers.

"I also acknowledge the media's important role in conveying accurate and complete information to the public in a fair and balanced way, and this aligns with our ethos of accountability and transparency," he said.

Tassal questions as to why Four Corners deliberately focused on and largely relied on anecdotal evidence and the beliefs of its commercial competitor in an attempt to make a case against Tassal and the Tasmanian salmon industry.

Mr. Ryan said that WWF-Australia is a highly respected and trusted environmental organisation. In all our dealings with WWF-Australia they have conducted themselves with a high degree of integrity and in a trusted and most professional way.

Released by:

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About Tassal

Tassal Group Limited (ASX: TGR) is a vertically integrated salmon grower and salmon and seafood processor, seller and marketer. The Company produces and sells premium salmon and seafood products for both the Australian domestic and export markets. Tassal grows delicious, fresh and healthy Atlantic salmon in Tasmania's fresh waters and through its De Costi Seafood business sources and processes a wide range of seafood. Tassal is committed to taking a leadership role in sustainability in aquaculture and seafood sourcing. The company employs more than 1,200 people. Visit www.tassal.com.au for more information.

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