

Re: Applicant Name: Yumbah Aquaculture Limited EPA Reference number:  
1003316 Planning Permit Reference number: P18147

I acknowledge this Country of the Gunditjmara people, my Ancestors who came before me and their spirit which I embrace and respectfully carry with me.

"Ngootyoong Gunditj, Ngootyoong Mara" translates from the Gunditjmara Dhauwurd Wurrung language to 'Healthy Country, Healthy People'. This recognizes that the environmental and cultural benefits of being on and caring for Country leads to healthy people and communities.

[REDACTED]

I have learned the stories of this country's past, the stories of unimaginable horror my ancestors faced and the stories of my families struggles and triumphs since invasion. We have survived against all odds and we continue to survive despite the odds that are often stacked against us, especially the Gunditjmara women. I carry none of this lightly, in fact it has weighed heavily on my spirit for as long as I can remember, before I even knew what it was.

One story I have learned is that of my Great Grandmother [REDACTED]. In the early part of last century, she had a wish to own her own [REDACTED]. It was at a time when our people were governed by strict policy and corralled onto missions, their every move scrutinized and controlled.

She had saved what little she could, in the hope that she could purchase a home for herself and her son, my Grandfather, for when he returned from WW1.

My Great Grandmother had longed for her own home, a place she considered her 'only bit of brightness'. She was denied this by the policies and climate at that time. I can only imagine what the outcome may have been had she been given opportunity to buy her little home.

I too, had longed for my own home, a sanctuary, my own 'bit of brightness'. Now here I am, 100 years after my Great Grandmothers passing, in my own home. It's a home that nurtures and grounds me, it is a place where I can offer respite to my spirit and a place where I can offer respite to other family members struggling to find their place on our ancestral grounds. It is a peaceful camp that affords me a safe place from which I can continue my cultural connection and my continuing rediscovery of cultural understanding and expression.

Therefore, I find it exasperating trying to argue the points of Yumbah's ludicrous proposal. I support my fellow residents in their arguments against Yumbah addressing those issues. I feel absolutely compelled to state how I feel about this from my heart and in the context of protecting my country.

Yumbah is pushing their way into our neighbourhood, without any thought for the efforts and investment we make to secure a happy and healthy community. Yumbah have pushed their agenda with all the arrogance and air of a schoolyard bully.

ighting for our homes, we are protecting our peaceful unsullied

[REDACTED]