

Okehampton Bay permit on agenda

TASSAL'S proposed infrastructure for its Okehampton Bay salmon farming expansion will be considered by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council tonight.

Spring Bay Seafoods has lodged a new development application on behalf of Tassal for a marine farming shore facility — including a 195m jetty — and planning scheme amendments.

The council will consider whether to issue a draft permit for the application and begin the planning scheme amendment process at tonight's meeting.

Earlier this year, the Tasmanian Planning Commission ruled a previous application could not be assessed because



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it had not been properly advertised by the council.

The Planning Commission will need to make the final decision to approve, because of the application's request to amend the Glamorgan Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme to allow a section of land to be used for light industrial purposes.

The previous documents identified port and shipping and service industry as primary uses under the proposed light industrial rezoning, how-

ever the new documents provide for resource development — the aquaculture use — and resource processing instead.

The *Mercury* revealed in March that the Planning Commission had advised Tassal, Spring Bay Seafoods and the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to consider whether they had applied for the correct uses of the site under the proposed change before resubmitting the application.

Fish processing would also be permitted under the resource processing use, however a Tassal spokeswoman said the company had no plans to process fish at the Spring Bay Seafoods site.

If the council approves the

application it will be publicly advertised.

Tassal intends to begin putting salmon in the water at Okehampton Bay in August.

The company hopes to have 28 pens holding 800,000 fish at full operation, and has purchased a \$140,000 barge from Townsville to mitigate the risks of running out of fresh bathing water for the salmon.

The spokeswoman said the company planned to use the barge at Okehampton Bay until a \$4.5 million dam proposed for Buckland is operational.

Tassal will hold three public information sessions in Triabunna tomorrow for East Coast residents interested in job opportunities.