

**Responses to Supplementary questions,**

**1:** When were you first made aware that the most recent reforms were to be implemented?

2012

**2:** How did you receive that information? Verbal? Written? By Who?

Press release, written by the Dept. or Minister

**3:** When did you make your first share purchase;

a

Under the current reform process?

23/11/2013, Print out included from DPI regarding all transactions since 2012.

b

Prior to the current reform process?

I traded 1or2 whole FB's during the Rec Haven and Marine Park process and purchased 1 Category One Hauling and 1 E G Prawning endorsement, un-sure of time line.

**Comment to the share insider-trading question from the committee during my appearance.**

The people that are accusing myself of insider trading are the people that have consistently refused to engage with the DPI re the question of reform or in fact have any input to the future of our fishery; they refused to consider a plan 'B' So now that they have missed the boat their only refuge is to personally attack those that heeded the advice and acted in good faith.

They have all bought shares.

In my opinion the attacks and allegations on my-self and others is nothing more than a desperate attempt to divert attention from the liability and potential litigation that they are exposed to, by providing false and misleading information.

There will be a large proportion of Fishers that listened to the Wild caught Coalition, when they said loudly that they would stop the Reform, and by listening to Wild Caught representatives and by not engaging some families have virtually guaranteed their exit from the fishery that is their life and identity.

I told all who would listen all information as and when I received it.

However the same families have run a misinformation and hate campaign on the radio, print media and they tell anyone that will listen that the reform and I have ruined their lives. They call into question the honesty and integrity of the process and anyone that openly supports change.

One claim is they were "forced out", they sold because the price offered was acceptable, in short "a good deal."

**All fishers speculated!**

Some speculated that there would be change.

Some speculated that there would be no change.

Regards Geoff Blackburn



**The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP**  
**Minister for Primary Industries**  
**Minister for Small Business**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday, 25 May 2012

**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REPORT RELEASED**

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, today released the Independent Report into NSW Commercial Fisheries Policy, Management and Administration.

The Report meets the NSW Liberals & Nationals pre-election commitment to comprehensively examine policy, management and administration practices related to our State's commercial fishing industry.

"The NSW Government welcomes the Report, and I can announce today that as part of the first stage of the reform process, the NSW Government will:

1. Roll out a comprehensive structural adjustment program to address the problem of excess/poorly defined fishing rights and ensure ownership of fishing entitlements is more closely linked to the level of access to the resource;
2. Reform governance processes to achieve a proper balance of responsibilities and accountabilities within Government and industry to restore confidence in decision making; and
3. Reform consultation mechanisms to deliver effective processes and structures that will promote co-ordinated advice, communication and feedback between Government and industry.

The Report was very clear – it found that "industry frustration with the "stop/go" history of share management and structural adjustment, and constant changes to the reform process, caused by many Government policy reversals over 15 years, led to a breakdown in trust, respect and working relations between the industry and government and even within government itself".

"Numerous previous reviews were conducted by the former Labor Government, yet none were fully implemented due to a lack of political commitment and financial resources, leaving many commercial fishermen struggling financially.

"The structural adjustment reform announced today will address the former Labor Government's failure to not implement share management properly, resulting in the over-allocation of access rights in most fisheries.

"Shares within each share class will be linked to resource access (i.e. catch or fishing effort) by the end of 2014.

"Today's announcement also meets the original intention of share management of NSW Fisheries, as was envisaged when the *Fisheries Management Act* was originally



enacted under the former NSW Liberals & Nationals Government in 1994," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Unless this Government takes action, and brings about positive reform for the commercial fisheries industry, things will continue to worsen and as Minister for Primary Industries I am not prepared to stand by and allow that to occur," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"This Government is committed to ensuring a strong and viable commercial fishing industry in NSW which provides sufficient supply of high quality local seafood to local consumers, while maintaining the sustainability of the State's fishery resource," Ms Hodgkinson said.

Ms Hodgkinson said the NSW Government will establish a new Industry Liaison Position which will be key to implementing the review outcomes. Recruitment for this new position will commence shortly.

The NSW Government has committed \$16 million prior to the last election to assist in restructuring the commercial fishing industry and it will honour this commitment.

"There will be an 18 month industry consultation phase to determine the detail of the new arrangements set to commence by the end of 2014," Ms Hodgkinson said.

As part of the second stage of the reform process, the NSW Government will develop a detailed final response to the Review Report's 22 key recommendations.

The Report has been made publically available and can be found on the DPI website

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform/review](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/commercial/reform/review)

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<sup>i</sup> Stevens, R. et al. March 2012. *Independent Review Report into NSW Commercial Fisheries Policy, Management and Administration*. Page ii.