



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMERCIAL FISHING REFORMS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 February 2017

Today, General Purpose Standing Committee No 5 released its report on commercial fishing in New South Wales.

‘For over 20 years successive governments have sought to address the challenges facing the commercial fishing sector in New South Wales. These challenges derive partly from the historic over-allocation of shares in 2007, as well as increased competition for fishing resources from recreational fishers and growing environmental interests. Given these pressures, it is not surprising that the government is intent on implementing fisheries reform via the Business Adjustment Program’ said the Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Brown MLC.

‘While we acknowledge that reform is needed, the implementation of the program to date has been less than ideal. We heard from many fishers, mostly small scale operators, who feel anxious about the impact of reforms. Clearly the government should have done a much better job communicating with fishers about these reforms’, Mr Brown said.

According to Mr Brown, ‘Fishers also questioned the integrity of the subsidised share trading market. The committee has therefore recommended that the government appoint a probity auditor to scrutinise the market when it goes live later this year’.

‘We are hopeful that the establishment of an effective industry body, supported by government but driven by fishers, will help ensure the viability of this important sector’ said Mr Brown.

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact the Chair, the Hon Robert Brown
MLC, on (02) 9230 2573.*



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