



## The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

OM17/2027

The Hon Robert Brown MLC  
Chair  
Portfolio Committee No. 5  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown

Further to my letter on 17 October 2017, I would like to provide you with an update on the progress of the regulatory changes taking place as part of the NSW Government's commercial fisheries reform.

The regulations which have already been made included a provision for the creation and issue of new quota shares in certain fisheries as well as the allocation of quota shares among relevant shareholders.

The new Regulation allows for:

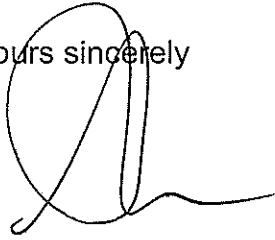
- providing for a type of share linkage arrangement where the number of shares held by a fishing business in a particular share class will enable the business to use specified maximum amounts of fishing gear (traps and hooks) and crew;
- increasing the minimum shareholding required to participate in certain fisheries, to support the broader reforms;
- introducing bag limits for various species of fish (including mud crab, blue swimmer crab, eels and eastern sea garfish) in the Estuary Prawn Trawl, Ocean Hauling, Ocean Trap and Line, Ocean Trawl, Lobster and Sea Urchin and Turban Shell fisheries so as to protect the integrity of the new catch quotas for mud crab, blue swimmer crab, eels and eastern sea garfish;
- changing marking requirements for set fishing gear so as to achieve a consistent approach across all types of set fishing gear;
- removing red tape by removing the need to register nets in certain fisheries and by providing for real time (online) reporting of catch in the Estuary General, Ocean Hauling, Lobster, Abalone, and Sea Urchin and Turban Shell fisheries.

I am pleased to advise that the regulations will be published on the NSW legislation website on Friday, 3 November 2017.

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I will continue to keep you informed of the further regulatory changes that are needed to be in place before the commercial fishing reforms are completed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

27 OCT 2017

**The Hon Niall Blair MLC  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry**