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LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL

SL10/116

10 May 2010

The Hon. R. L. Brown, MLC
Chair
Select Committee on Recreational Fishing
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Chair

INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING – WITNESS: GRAHAME TURK

I undertook to respond to two matters.

1. The Chair asked the question “how did you arrive at the estimation “that 5 percent of recreational anglers take most of the recreational catch?”

The statement may be apocryphal but is a widely-held belief amongst fishers. It may have some grounding in the national recreational fishing survey.

According to Dr Daryl McPhee, Associate Professor of Environmental Science at Bond University: *“Recreational catch is almost always asymmetrically distributed among participants. The general rule of thumb is that 10% of anglers catch 90% of the fish. Almost any survey of recreational fishing will show this asymmetrical distribution.”*

The advice from Professor Bob Kearney, Emeritus Professor of Fisheries from the University of Canberra is “I think the statement that 10% of anglers catch 90% of the fish originated in the USA, but I have very little doubt it is true in NSW.”

2. I undertook to advise the timing of the Richmond River fish kills and to supply photographs.

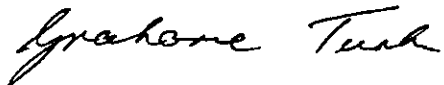
There have been three major fish kills in the last 16 years. The most recent was in 2008 and prior to that 2001 and 1994.



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For the purpose of demonstrating to Committee Members the total devastation of biodiversity resulting from low Dissolved Oxygen / high acid sulphate water moving down the river, I enclose copies (8 sets) of photographs taken after the 2008 incident.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grahame Turk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a distinct 'T'.

Grahame Turk
Managing Director

Encl.