

**Submission
No 10**

INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

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The banning of set lines on inland rivers has created a massive drop in numbers of people fishing these rivers. The points I make and feel very strong about are as follows;

1. Murray Cod are a species that hunt at night and may not hook up to a bait for some days set lines are the only real chance an inland fisherman has to land a Murray Cod. I personally have not caught a Murray Cod sense the new law has been implemented but before this law was introduced my chances were reasonable and I accepted the four set line rule as fair enough.

2. The argument that set lines catch too many fish is untrue.

3. The argument that there aren't enough fish in the inland river systems is also false. I have seen first hand a professional fisherman remove tonnes of fresh water fish from the Murrumbidgee River in past years, my point is even in that period of time fellow fishermen and myself would struggle to land a Murray Cod or for that matter any of the fresh water using set lines so in fact the fish are plentiful in numbers but a set line is really the only chance you have to land a fish.

4. The communities that benefit from fishermen spending are sadly losing out.

5. Young people are not getting involved with fishing because the fact that it has become a very big risk to leave a line unattended and the fact that it is impossible to land a suitable fish with just a hand held line.

6. I'm 49 years of age and have fished the inland river systems sense the age of 10. I've made a lot of friends along the way due to fishing and a lot of these people are now retirees and use to look forward to fishing trips but now the risk is too great given the no set line laws and my old mates who taught me the ropes don't venture out fishing these days.

7. Fishermen are always financially supporting the restocking of rivers but I get the feeling among fishermen that unless the rules are returned to the previous four set lines fishermen feel cheated.