

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Troy Jones
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To whom it may concern, This email has been written to show how the proposed reforms will impact on my family and the ability for me to provide fresh seafood to the public. I will start with a brief history of myself to date. My name is Troy Philip Jones and I am 38 years of age. Quite young by fisherman standards.

I left school at the age of 16 and started work as a deckhand on a commercial trap and line boat. After fishing for 3 years I decided to join the Royal Australian Navy. On completion of service I returned to fishing, working a meshing and school prawn operation on the Tweed. I now own a small air conditioning business on the Tweed and still own a commercial fishing business comprising of 40 shares line east, 40 shares line west and 40 trapping shares. My operation is small and I only average around 3 days a month. If it was not for my operation my local beer would have no access to the resource. There is only 3 active line fishers in this region currently. I catch around 100kgs per trip.

When I purchased my fishing business approximately 2012, it was not a decision taken lightly. I consoled the advice of accountants and other fisherman that I had known for a long time. Even though the purchase price of \$90,000 just for the license seemed like a large capital outlay, the fact was that I was purchasing shares in a managed fishery. This did provide some security and piece of mind. Now lets keep in mind that the \$90,000 was just the license I still need a boat and a ute. So the total outlay just to make a start was over \$200,000. This was a lot of money but the way I looked at it this was a plan for the future and an investment that was justified by the security knowing that this was a share based managed fishery. There was no investment warning on the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery.

Moving forward 2016 the NSW fishing reform will ask me to reinvest up to 50% of my initial outlay to remain in the fishing industry. Management will dispute these figures but the truth is that they can't quantify the cost because of the uncertainty about how to implement what they are proposing. The reality is for me I only earn around \$15,000 from fishing a year. How could I possibly afford what the government is proposing. I would like somebody to show me how this is making me more sustainable.

If the current proposals go ahead there is no way I can possibly remain in the fishing industry. In our region we have 3 line fisherman operating in the Offshore Trap and Line Fishery. After talking with those fellow fisherman I don't think any will remain. Why isn't management looking at ways to improve the stock of our fishery instead of rubbing out commercial fisherman. Why do we still catch snapper by the thousands at 30cm long and they have not contributed to the reproductive cycle. This is why we as fisherman get so frustrated and loose faith in management. NSW fisheries are looking to the fisherman to finance 75 years of bad management with no plan or promise for an improved fishing future.