

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 27 November 2016

Partially
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern

Please see below my submission in regard to the inquiry into Commercial fishing in New South Wales.

I am a second generation fisherman out of . I have been fishing for over 20 years and for 19 of these years I have owned and operated my own business over a number of fisheries. I am also a financial member of two co-ops.

Most of the co-ops will lose some older members who don't want to spend money at their age to stay viable which is totally understandable.

I am very supportive of the reform and have been involved with a number of discussions, and sat on committee's and meetings over the years. I have had many discussions over the years with Managers and staff from Fisheries about the way to move forward with the reform. The industry needs to change there are too many fishermen in the industry and the reform will let people sell their shares and get out of the industry with some dignity.

Roughly five years ago when NSW DPI announced there would be some sort of reform to the fishing industry so fishers have known for a number years this is not new news but a third of them have buried their heads in the sand and ignored any warnings that there would be change coming.

Six months ago DPI released the outline of the shares for each fishery and still a third ignored the advice and sat on their arses and whinged and whined that fisheries can't do this to us. The rest of the fishers have brought, sold and swapped shares to get to the correct number of shares for each fishery. I know of people who have spent between \$20,000 to \$80,000 buying more shares depending on the number of fisheries they are in. Why should these fishers be discriminated against because they have done the right thing.

I own 3 fishing business and I am a mulit species fisherman operating in Zone 1 and Zone 2 in the following fisheries:

Ocean Trawl
Ocean Haul
Ocean Trap and Line
Estuary General
EPT

Over the last five years I have spent over \$100,000 on shares to get my businesses ready for the reform. Why should I be disadvantaged against now because people don't read and listen to the advice from the DPI.

If the fishers say they can't afford to buy more shares their business must not be running properly or they are part time fishers and they should not have a say on the reform and how it impacts on full time fishers.

I am all for quota at least you know what you have to catch for the year and you can structure your business around that. I do not agree with quota getting put back until 2024 it should be put back in at 2019 so we all can move forward with our businesses.

Quota will make the fishing industry viable and also push the product prices up and make our business worth something where now they are worth nothing for example look at the spanner crab fishery since quota has been introduced 18 months ago the prices keep getting stronger.

I am very disappointed in the Minister as he keeps putting the reform back and back. Everyone is putting their lives and businesses on hold and do not want to spend any money on other things that they should be spending it on just in case they need to buy more shares. He should not be worried about the one third who haven't spent any money he should be worried about the two thirds who have spent shitloads of money to get there business ready for the reform coming after him for compensation for the amount of money they have spent because I know I will be the first one at the solicitors door.

I am more than happy to speak to anyone about the reform and how it affects my businesses.

Can you please remove my name if this submission is published.

Thank you