

**Submission
No 34**

**INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Mr Alan Ford

Date received: 7 December 2016

Dear Sir.

I wish to participate in the submission for the parliamentary enquiry.

I have been a professional fisher man for 63 years, 5th generation. I think the first step in the reform should have been to buy out those fishermen who want to leave the industry (like me). There are quite a few in this community and over all it could be a significant amount over all. I feel I am being financially screwed as this business was to be my superannuation, I feel my boat, gear and paperwork would be at least \$80, 000, I don't think \$20, 000 is a fair amount. After you take these fishermen out of the industry see how many are left before a reform is structured.

During The 70's and 80's Dr. John Glaister biologist with fisheries (later director of fisheries) did years of research into the viability of prawning in the Clarence River. This research was conducted on my trawler and the sustainability of prawning is still as good to this day.

I am 75 years of age and have quite a severe disability and I can't walk without assistance and have to be helped on and off the boat. I have to keep working as the pension does not cover all the fees etc incurred in fishing. I worry a lot about what is going to happen to my wife if I pass away. I hope these problems can be sensibly worked out and let these fishermen that want to leave do so with dignity and to be rewarded financially for the huge effort we have put into an industry that has been my life and I have loved every minute of it.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely

Alan Ford