

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Kelvin Wynn
Date received: 7 December 2016

The Commercial Fishermen on Tuggerah lakes strongly object to this motion on the following grounds:-

NOTICE OF MOTION

8.1 PHASE OUT COMMERCIAL FISHING ON TUGGERAH LAKES

That Council call on the State Government to phase out commercial fishing on Tuggerah Lakes noting that:-

- a) The previous cessation of commercial fishing on Lake Macquarie and the associated rise in recreational fishing
 - Lake Macquarie closed under the Recreational Fishing Haven deal that allowed the State Government to introduce a Recreational Anglers Licence.
 - Where are the figures to support this bald statement?
 - Lake Macquarie was always a popular recreational fishing lake, Commercial fishermen only ever worked the southern half of the lake.
 - Tuggerah and Macquarie lakes underwent the same process during this time and community support saw Tuggerah Lakes wishing to maintain a commercial fishing presence.
- b) The paucity of fish and prawns available to our tourist and recreational fishermen
 - Tourist and recreational fishermen generally only like to fish in the channel and around Toukley Bridge because of the lakes turbidity. The opaqueness of the water over most of the day does not allow many recreational fishermen to catch any fish but they easily make up for this in the channel where they catch flathead, bream, whiting, luderick and prawns in great numbers. The channel is closed to commercial fishermen. The flathead catch of recreational fishermen is greater than the commercial catch.
 - The geography of the lake does not lend itself to recreational fishing as there is too much open water with no sheltered bays or inlets to pursue their hobby unlike Lake Macquarie.
 - The average depth of 1.7m means it is a very shallow lake system that becomes dangerous for small craft because of the large amplitude and frequency of waves in relatively low wind conditions compared to other lake systems.
 - It has never been viewed as a popular recreational fishing lake because of these factors and with such a good lake only up the road.
 - Tuggerah lakes system is really an ICOL (an intermittent closing and opening lake)
- c) The unsustainability of current commercial methods of fishing such as haul netting
 - Commercial catch rates for the Tuggerah Lakes according to NSW Fisheries Catch Records show that, apart from seasonal fluctuations due to environmental conditions such as droughts and floods, year to year the catches of most species has remained roughly constant over the life of commercial fishing on the lake with a tenfold

reduction of numbers of commercial fisherman. This year, for example, the lake system has had a lot of fresh water, hence fish catches are down because the salinity level is down in the lake but prawns are experiencing a bumper year and the reverse is true in the dry years. Both prawns and fish are caught using hauling methods.

- Will supply figures tomorrow to show commercial catches from the Co-op
- The NSW State Government has by law under the Charter of NSW Fisheries to have a supply of fresh edible fish for NSW consumers.
- The latest report from the Nature Conservation Council on the sustainability of commercial fishing has clearly enunciated that estuary caught fish are one of the most sustainable fisheries. This is due to the quick replacement of stock by fast growing species and low impact of methods on the waterway and cheap catch/fuel ratios when compared with ocean caught wild fish.
- The NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries Division) is currently undertaking a review of commercial fishing which is understood to be being implemented by 2015. The purpose of the review is to manage all NSW Fisheries in a sustainable manner. There are likely to be changes made by this review that will significantly reduce fishing effort.
- Tugalooma Wild Dolphin Resort on Moreton Island has been supplied with a non-table fish, silver biddies, for their tourist trade by commercial fisherman on the Tuggerah Lakes for the last 15 years and is unable to source this supply for their approximately 130 000 overseas and domestic tourist trade except through Tuggerah Lakes exclusively in the last 3 years. (See tabled letter)

d) The impact on the lakes

- As commercial fishermen do not pollute the lakes nor damage the ecosystem in any way, they do not have an adverse effect on the Tuggerah Lake system.
- The damage to the lakes is caused by nutrient overload and sedimentation caused the run-off points in to the lake from every roadway, the soil, nutrients and chemicals washed in to the lake from the tributaries through erosion and the phosphorus and chemicals from dog droppings, lawn fertilisers and other human based activities. Despite this, the Tuggerah Lakes is one of the most fertile and productive estuaries in the whole of Australia.

e) The expansion of commercial licences to non-local operators

- All commercial fishermen in zone 4 are permitted to work any estuary open to commercial fishing from The Entrance to Forster. In reality this means a couple of fishermen travel between water bodies depending on the season and what's running. Tuggerah lakes currently has two occasional non Wyong Shire resident commercial fisherman, one of whom owns three properties in the Wyong Shire Council Boundary.

f) The impact on boats, watercraft and recreational lake usage

- Very little interface occurs between lake users as recreational fishermen tend to congregate around the channel which is closed to commercial fishing. A lot of commercial fishing activity is conducted at night.
- Tuggerah lakes system is not suitable for large vessels and, as long as users are obeying the waterway rules there is no conflict. It is a shared resource for livelihoods and recreation.

In conclusion, the more than 300 000 local residents of the Central Coast plus nearby localities of Newcastle and its environs like to purchase fresh locally caught wild fish

and voted that way last time this idea was mooted. Commercial fishing is also an employer of a number of our local Aboriginal people.

Wyang Shire Council also determined to return to the three Rs, roads, rates and rubbish. This motion is well beyond the scope of Council and is, in fact, the business of the NSW Government, which is already undertaking a review, maybe they should await the outcome. It is also noted that the motion makes a number of bald statements and assertions with no facts or figures to back them up.



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November 2016

NSW Parliamentary Inquiry
MEMBER PERSONAL
SUBMISSION

Send to:

The Director

Inquiry into commercial Fishing NSW

Upper House Committee

Parliament of NSW 2000

SYDNEY

NSW

From:

Name: Belvin Wynn

Address: 24 Montrose St.

Manning Park Date: 4/12/2016

Please sign every page.....

K. Wynn



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Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

Introduction:

I am a commercial fisher working in Region: 4

I have been in the Fishing Industry for: 40 Years

I have many concerns for the way the commercial fishery is being managed in NSW and draw your attention to my personal views on the following:

The Impact to my Business Shareholding is as follows:

Fishery <u>Cat 1 Hauling</u>	Shares held: <u>125</u>	Shares now required <u>250</u>
Fishery <u>Estuary Prawn</u>	Shares held: <u>150</u>	Shares now required _____
Fishery <u>" Meshing</u>	Shares held: <u>125</u>	Shares now required <u>125</u>
Fishery <u>Ocean Haul</u>	Shares held: <u>40</u>	Shares now required _____
Fishery _____	Shares held: _____	Shares now required _____
Fishery _____	Shares held: _____	Shares now required _____
Fishery _____	Shares held: _____	Shares now required _____
Fishery _____	Shares held: _____	Shares now required _____
Fishery _____	Shares held: _____	Shares now required _____
Fishery _____	Shares held: _____	Shares now required _____

I have had to pre purchase shares because:

I purchased 25 prawn shares to bring me to a minimum holding of 150 which is required to allow me to work.

Please note the following personal views of the impacts to my business and my personal situation: Because of my majority

activity is hauling in region 4. my 125 shares only allows for 62 days work.

At present I usually work between 160 to 200 days per year.

Please sign every page.....

KW



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Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

Subsidised Trading:

(circle the answer you support)

- In Your opinion is it fair? Yes / ☒ No
- Has the process been adequately explained? Yes / ☒ No
- Can you access a computer? Yes / ☒ No
- Did the training answer your questions? Yes / ☒ No
- Can you have ease of trading your shares knowing that you will get
enough to continue what you did pre the reform? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you agree that you are trying to buy back your job? ☒ Yes / No
- Have you borrowed money? not as yet Yes / ☒ No
- How will the debt you have incurred affect your viability?
It will be better? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you see that you will have more value in your business? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you agree to the need to linking shares with effort or quota? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you perceive that the process has made it impossible for you to
regain shares to reach the level of effort for your business viability? ☒ Yes / No
- Did you support the message to the Minister that inactive share
holders should be offered a buy-out first with a fair offer? ☒ Yes / No
- Did you support the message to the Minister that NO fisher should be
Forced to buy back their jobs to do what they do today? ☒ Yes / No
- Is paying even 5% or 10% for the shares taking you into too much debt? ☒ Yes / No
- Are you able to participate in the share trading? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you support how this reform has been structured? Yes / ☒ No
- In the period 2007 to 2016 have you ever agreed to a Reform in this manner? ... Yes / ☒ No
- Did your Management Advisory Committee agree to a reform in this manner? ... Yes / ☒ No

Please sign every page..... K. Wp



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Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

(Circle the answer you support)

Did you know about the 'Pymont Pact' and the decision by NSW Seafood Industry Advisory Committee? To remove 100% inactive effort and 50% active effort? ... Yes ☒ No

Do you support this to be a fair strategy for 2016? Yes ☒ No

Do you agree to the method selected by DPI to use the collective Catch History of the individual fisher, divide this with all fishers across the state in a pro rata distribution for some fisheries to develop quota and or effort? Yes ☒ No

If you disagreed with the Linkage options and the reform; were you welcome to sit at the working group meetings Yes ☒ No

Can you clearly make a business decision from the information that has been provided to you for this Business structural adjustment program at this stage? Yes ☒ No

Are you aware of any harvest strategy or cost benefit analysis? Yes ☒ No

Mock/Preview Share trading:

Did you participate in this? Yes / ☒ No

Did this resolve your questions? Yes ☒ No

Please explain:

No matter what happens there has been a (i) not enough shares on the open market and ~~what~~ shares available has skyrocketed in price making it impossible to buy ~~and~~

Please sign every page..... *K. Wye*



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Commercial Fishers Personal Views

(Circle the answer you support)

Has DPI given you any information and analysis of the outcome of the trading?

.....Yes / ☒ No

Is it a satisfactory result?

Yes / ☒ No

Please explain:

Is your current debt prohibiting you from borrowing for your business? Yes / ☒ No

Please verify did you utilize the grant for financial advisor? Yes / ☒ No

Did the advisor confidently recommend investment? Yes / ☒ No

Do you support the changes for unendorsed crew brought out in July? Yes / ☒ No

Why? This will not reduce effort.
In estuary hauling unendorsed
or unskilled crew will create problems
with the public perceptions of
commercial fishers

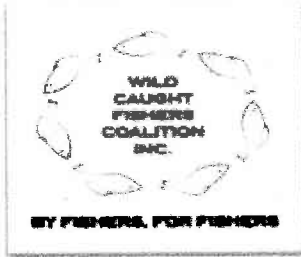
Were you adequately advised of these changes? Yes / ☒ No
your views:

Do you have the changes in writing that give you clear directions on what is permissible in your region?

Yes / ☒ No

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K. Wy



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Personal Commercial Fishers views:

(Circle the answer you support)

Do you have issues in your region with the Prawn Draw? ☒ Yes / No

Please explain

With the new reforms a person with 250 shaves can use unendorsed crew as well as receive an extra number in the ballot. Two endorsed fishermen with ~~with~~ minimum (150 shaves) combined have 300 shaves in the draw. Not fair

Do you support the further culling of Active commercial fishers from the inshore waters estuaries and lakes in NSW? Yes / ☒ No

Please explain:

In a recent survey 97% of the local central coast ^{population} wanted access to fresh fish and crust. caught locally.

NSW fisheries have continued over 40 years never to educate or explain to the general population of the benefits of local caught seafood.

Do you support the movement of Quota into other regions Yes ☒ No

Why?

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ILW



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Personal Commercial Fishers views

(circle the answer your support)

Is there now a visible Increase of trap setting in your region that concerns you?

Yes / No.

If you're an Indigenous Fisher:

Have you been informed of your future participation in the reform adequately?

Please explain:

Are you being ostracised by other fishers since the trapping and hauling net and prawn draw changes have occurred Yes / NO

Please explain: There has been a
scramble for shares for
fishing activities. This has created
a source of tension amongst fishers.

If you are a Line West or Line East Fisher please state which fishery and if you know what is proposed for your fishery..... Yes / No.

Please clarify: _____

Please sign every page..... K. W. [Signature]



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Personal Commercial Fishers views

(Circle the answer you support)

Given there is approximately 1% of the Australian Population allowed to commercially fish to provide seafood for approximately 78% of the population who do not fish recreationally do you agree that there is a major management issue in providing local seafood to local communities in NSW?Yes No

Your views:

The NSW. gov clatters in its fishing management insists upon the provision of seafood to ALL NSW residents. Over the last 50 years the fisheries management has taken from the commercial sector to pander to the recreational

Further Comments.

lobby. The commercial sector has faced the creation of recreational fishing havens, the establishment of marine parks, the introduction of regularity gear changes.

It has been proven that the major estuary species of ~~are~~ seafood are the most sustainable and quickly replenishing

Remember to attach correspondence you have sent to DPI, or the Minister,

Please sign every page.....

KWZ



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stocks. We know that the commercial catch is the most sustainable in estuarine waters what we don't know is the recreational catch. The recreational catch in some species far outweighs the commercial catch ie dusky Flathead. However because of their political lobbying they continue ~~without~~ to fish without consequences ie a limit of 10 dusky Flathead per person per day is a joke.

The proposed reform does nothing to help sustainability. It has fostered a system where a small number of commercial fishers hold a huge number of shares (mainly purchased years ago with inside knowledge) and a larger group of commercial fishers scrambling after remaining shares with hugely inflated prices.

Attached are a number of submissions made over the years.