

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mrs Mylee Cheers
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Partially
Confidential

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter in disgust with where the fishing industry is heading, how the fisherman have been treated and how there has been no answers. My name is Mylee Cheers, the wife of Micheal Cheers. Mike is an estuary fisherman who is lucky enough to have five generations of knowledge. He was born and bred here in Smiths Lake and has been fishing since he was 18 years old.

Fishing is not an easy industry to be a part of. Sure it has its perks. Everyday my husband has the best office in town, the great outdoors of the Smiths Lake, the Myall Lake & the Wallis Lake. I am struggling to understand how the public wouldn't want FRESH PRODUCE. We have the best lakes in our backyard, so why would we want to eat/purchase farmed or imported seafood. It just does not make sense.

Each year Mike pays his licenses, fees, bills, mortgage, and maintenances on his boats, motor, truck & gear. Just like any other person out there trying to make a living. He tries his best to make an income to support his family. This has been extremely hard over the last year or so. If the weather is not enough to contend with fishermen have also got the added worry of the Marine Parks and lake closures, Fees & licenses increasing, Quota's & restrictions and now the huge stress of the Reform. I have never heard of any other industry that have to buy back their own business to allow them to work less and earn less then what they are getting to start with.

My husband was in hospital this year with pneumonia due to being so stressed and run down. This is a man who never gets sick. I have watched Mike be stressed, angry, hurt, upset, frustrated, depressed and wanting to give up. These emotions are only getting worse with all the uncertainty that we have with the fishing industry. I rely on this father of two. He is an amazing husband, best friend & my soul mate. He is a super cool dad who enjoys playing with his kids and just wants to make a living. He loves his work and has a passion for the lakes, marine life and the sustainability of this industry.

I know there are so many families feeling the same way we are. There are so many children watching their dads upset and sick with worry. There are so many partners or wives watching their husbands slip into depression.....WHY???????

On behalf of my son , my daughter and myself I would like to put a big cry out for help. Please take a look at what is happening to this industry which has been thriving for 100's and 1000's of years. I am for change and improvements but this is joke. Where to now and what to do next!

This is breaking my heart to watch this happen to Mike and all the other people and families involved.

Regards

Mylee Cheers