

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

**Name:** Mrs Caroline Baker

**Date received:** 8 December 2016

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Date: 8.12.16

The Director

Inquiry into Commercial Fishing in New South Wales

Upper House Committees

Parliament of New South Wales

Macquarie Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Re: Terms of reference

1 (e) (iii) My son, Michael Baker, has been fishing commercially at Toowoomb Bay all his working life. If the planned changes are implemented at the end of the year, my son will not be able to earn a living and support his family, as he has only 75 shares. He needs 80! The fact that my son will not be able to work will have exponential ramifications for many businesses throughout the region if my son cannot sustain his livelihood if the changes announced go ahead:

- Marine boat business: boats and trailers are regularly bought and repaired. Motors are purchased and mechanically looked after.
- Bait supplier
- Car Sales: 4 wheel drive vehicles are purchased for beach access
- Ice machines (he has two), freezer and cool room suppliers and mechanics
- Fish Truck courier to the Sydney Fish Market; \$7 per 20kg case of fish
- Sydney Fish Market: Commission taken on fish sales (12%), Ice suppliers, (extra ice is applied to each case, cleaning of fish boxes), Ocean Levy Watch imposed on fishermen and taken from their sales.
- Marine suppliers: vests, EPIRB, depth sounders, GPS
- Fishing inspectors regularly patrol area.
- Food safe inspectors regularly inspect premises
- Fishing tackle shops
- Net and rope suppliers (Sydney Fish Markets)

- Rural suppliers for timber and wire for traps
- Service station for mechanical work on vehicles and fuel
- Automotive parts supplier
- Chemist for sunscreen and medical supplies
- Doctor: hooks sometimes go through fingers and bones!
- Thermal clothing suppliers: ocean work can be extremely cold.
- Computers: necessary for weather watch
- Mobile phone: necessary for communication
- Paint suppliers: equipment and premises have to be adequately maintained
- Lifeguards: ensure the boat has access to the sea
- Banks: all income
- Taxes
- Restaurants: supply of fresh, locally caught fish for consumers/patrons.

RECOMMENDATION: As can be readily seen, the impact on the commercial fishing industry in our Tuggerah Lakes regional community is monumental, if these proposed structural reforms go ahead. Planned changes by government should not result in whole destruction of regional communities, the outcome of which is that Sydney Fish Markets receive fresh, local, sustainably caught seafood. There seems to be a lack of communication with the workers in the industry. Why are all these changes made without consultation with those who supply the product and those in the regions who support them? My son only found out that he needed more shares when he spoke to another fisherman, out at sea! THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH COMMUNICATION IN THIS WHOLE PROCESS.

(Mrs) Caroline Baker