

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

**Name:** Mr Claudio Zarella

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Partially  
Confidential

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**To:** GPSC5 GPSC5  
**Subject:** NSW commercial fishermen reform inquiry submission

To The Hon ROBERT BROWN,

RE: The NSW Commercial Fishermans Reform Inquiry,

I am lodging this submission in hope to shed light on the past 25 years of corrupt conduct of DPI, formally known as Nsw Fisheries.

Starting with the present day corrupt reform and its implementation. The overwhelming majority of share holders in the industry totally oppose its structure and we have totally been ignored by the department to the point of being unconstitutional.

The draconian measures placed upon the Fishers and their families, such as, buying shares in fear of the implementation which has placed the division needed to ensure its possible point of no return is devastating. What ever the outcome there has been a devilish act performed by the DPI to ultimately serve the corporate giants, inflicting degradation to the NSW Fishermen.

NO FISHER AGREED TO BUY BACK THERE BUSINESS.

So, why did minister Niall Blair empower DPI to do so.? One word Answer ...Corruption.  
His ministership should be stripped, and he should be under investigation along with all involved in the creation of this reform.

I personally will be left with 85% of my business unusable after July 2017.  
Countless letters and meetings with minister Katrina Hodgkinson and Niall Blair informing them of this outcome were totally ignored. The conversations pleading that my family would be homeless not only fell on deaf ears but careless ones. A total abuse of power has been displayed and they should be held accountable.

No sound financial decision can possibly be made without full disclosure and gaurantees. With the threat of estuary closures and the creation of more marine parks, what the DPI is expecting from the share holders is total insanity.

In the late 90's buyouts were calculated for commercial fishers due to area closures for marine parks and rec havens. Letters were sent to all fishing business owners advising them not to invest in the industry from the DPI. However fishers that held representative positions that liased with NSW Fisheries were given secret knowledge of, future benefits and power so began to invest heavily. Creating a new beast, the share barrons., There were fishers such as Grahame Burns who took buyout payments and reinvested using the money. Such dealing ruined the buyout scheme for other **retiring** fishers in the future.

In 2002 marine parks recreational fishing havens came to be.

The **undenialbe** evidence of how backdoor deals morphed into reality, this is the creation of Jervis Bay Marine Park. I have been present at such conversations between local fishers and Grahame Byron the original marine park manager, when requests were made to develop a permit system to lock out Illawarra fishers from entering the marine park. This request was granted and created a region within a region. No other marine park has this permit system. This was only to benefit the select few. Also the creation of bioregions that allowed some of the select few to travel beyond their region. As long as you were on Minister's Obeids favorite list the lines and regulations were adjusted so you could prosper whilst other fishers suffered. There is rumors that the corrupt minisiter Obeid used his position to disable the fishing industry to such a point as to reduce competition for seafood importers which he was in league with.

Our industry has been mismanaged for decades and commercial fishers that were not yes men will now pay the price. I hope that this letter somehow will lead to the unveiling of wrong doings of the corrupt DPI members and ministers that have brought this industry to its knees. They have created so much stress to my family and I. There is despair in families like mine all through the industry and it has all been caused by management.  
The only way this can ever be fair is to conduct a voluntary buyout and leave the active fishers to operate as normal. A 20 thousand dollar termination pay for a lifetimes work is offensive. and other re-entrants like him certianly got more than that in the first buyout using fraudulent catch returns that were never means tested against his income. The corruption in the managment of our fishing industry is pretty much common knowledge now days and the only reason it goes unchallenged is because we are few. It would take a very brave soul to challege the corrupt department who has slowly been eroding

the share holders rights through communist style enforcement. I am saddened to see the people in power making life crushing decisions with no accountability. PLEASE RESTORE BALANCE AND DO WHATS RIGHT.....HELP TO STOP THE REFORM.

THANK YOU  
CLAUDIO ZARRELLA NSW COMMERCIAL FISHER