

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

Name: Mr L. J. Keppie
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L.S. Keppie

Dear Committee Members

As a Commercial Fisherman for the past 40 years I would like to place a submission to the inquiry into Commercial Fishing in N.S.W.

The restructure proposal from N.S.W. A.P.I is unviable: reasons why

1/ There are not enough shares available for fishermen to continue to make a living.

2/ Shares are being profiteered by an elite few. Some with prior knowledge from Advisory Committees.

3 Who would invest in an Industry when you do not have a guarantee to fishing grounds that may be designated a Marine Park or Recreational fishing zone due to another unfounded Scientific Study

4 D.P.I have ignored advice from meetings with Commercial Fishermen. The N.S.W fishing Industry is facing a bleak future. There aren't enough young newcomers to fishing because it is too expensive to start and the annual fees are ridiculously high. Resulting in a shortage of supply to the consumer.

5 Industry reforms have impacted heavily since 1994. Decisions made by Rogue Fisheries Ministers Obeyed

and McDonald. Have not been investigated. Those reforms then and now are putting immense social pressure on Industry Members and their families resulting in depression, alcohol abuse, violence marriage breakdown and suicidal tendencies. This has to be addressed immediately.

6/ The Majority of Industry members agree that a license buyout would be the most effective way to restructure the fishing Industry. Advice from the fishermen has to be taken into consideration because they have generations of knowledge and experience.

Yours sincerely