

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

Name: Mr Christopher Collier

Date received: 9 December 2016

Dear sir / madam

In relation to the N.S.W commercial fishing reforms this is my submission against these reforms .My fishing life has been growing all my life from childhood to now age 43. Back in 2008 I leased an ocean trap and line fishing business from an in active fisher due to a death in his fishing operation he was unable to return to work.I made a boat motor trailer investment \$20000 and became successful in ocean trap and line fishery being able to rent and support my wife and 7 children in a regional area where employment wasn't easy. I leased for 5 years then had an opportunity to borrow money from a private lender with repayments set at 6 percent of a month .

I then bought the ocean trap and line business as well as another deceased estate region 3 estuary fishing business to complement my ocean business when bad weather conditions made sea unworkable in a small boat. During the process of buying these business' I purchased two extra boats and trailers from fishers getting out of the industry from age.I also locally repowered the larger boat bought a property and two new cars .as a breakdown of cost associated with setup of my operation since stating i have financed and spent \$650000 on licenses ,property ,vehicles, boats , trailers , and motors tyres ,fuel as well as nets wire rope rods reels all bought locally supporting local business .Whilst being a viable business supplying fresh fish ,prawn ,and crabs to my local coop in the port of laurieton.

As described above you can see with the money I have spent ,earnt ,and worked hard for to be forced to buy more shares as an outcome of the proposed reform ,would be crippling to my already large debt level .These proposed changes would force me to sell my business' possible my house .

The reform information I have received and have stayed in tune with via dpi and social media ,the port meetings as well as word of mouth all points to a very very small number of fishers wanting the reforms pushed through with a huge cloud of misinformation being presented or relevant information being misleading as to the actual need from the industry delivered to political ministers.

As a reasonably new entrant it is very discouraging to see a scientifically viable industry with such a small number of active fishers have so much tax payers money being wasted and miss managed by government the present parliamentary enquiry is desperately required as to the real source of these unfair , Unfathomable ,reform proposals.

I am quite prepared to stand up in a court of law to attest my case of civil liberties being taken by being forced out of work with no fair compensation .I am also prepared to keep working if industry was left alone to do its natural attrition rate which happens.

I have suffered ill health issues from stress of the proposed changes .If the government needs to change the industry it could simply buy out whoever wants to leave over a slidding scale of 5 to 10 years reopen closed areas and put them under strict control to viable harvest operators to get back great product outcomes also re leaving pressure from almost overfished areas with extra pressure put on them from fishers being forced into smaller areas by estuary and reef closures.

In summary I thank you for readying my submission and sincerely hope a just and fair outcome happens and as for the future generations to be able harvest local sustainable seafood for the Australian public to enjoy.