

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

Name: Mr Nathan Lenard

Date received: 9 December 2016

From Nathan Lenard
Fisherman

To the Commercial Fishing Inquiry

6/12/16

My name is Nathan Lenard. I am a second generation fisherman and I have worked my business for 15 years on the Clarence River.

The restructure will create challenges in the continuation of my fishing future. The unavailability and price of shares needed to continue profitability in the industry make my future as a fisherman insecure.

I need to purchase another four lots of crab shares (one lot = 125 shares @ \$35,000). \$145,000 is impossible to come up with and the shares aren't available even if I were able to afford it.

Another challenge I face is the lack of meshing nights. At the moment I can work five days a week. If the reform takes effect, I have to spread 70 nights across the whole year. That equals about one and a half nights per week. I have three children, a spouse and a mortgage. The sums don't add up.

The consultation with fishermen was a farce because nobody agreed to the changes, everyone objected and yet the reforms went ahead regardless.

The stress this has caused me is affecting my health at such a high level that I fear for my mental stability. I just caught the equivalent of my proposed mud crab quota in three weeks – where does that leave me for the rest of the year?

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Lenard