

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed – partially confidential

Date received: 6 December 2016

Partially
Confidential

Region 3 fisherman EG

To begin with our family are 5th generation fisherman from reg 3 Macleay River. Our family has fished the Macleay for over 100 years and have done so sustainably. We have lived through draught flood and restructuring of our industry for the last 30 years. We could not survive this reform.

I felt the politicians were out of touch .Niall Blair did not listen and was not going to listen to our concerns.

Melinda Pavey said the only thing that was going to stop the reform was bad publicity .They have an agenda

Both politicians just acted vague but I know their not stupid . When this all started it was to remove Latent effort. This is people ^{WHO} do not use there right to fish or have put Nil returns into DPI. But then they gave them a share of everyone's catch history in which re activated the latent effort.

To stay in the industry we would have had to buy 9 more crab endorsements also we would have needed to buy 10 more eel endorsements.

I worked over 30 years to build MY business up and have worked hard .So for someone to just give away what I earned is ludicrous.

So with quota we would have lost 60% of our income with what we were allocated

:90 days meshing

:1439.3 kg of crabs

:800 kg of eels

We would have been out of work in 5 months.

When they took our catch history from us and divided it up in region 3 .Then to think that they wanted me to buy back what I already owned was very dis heartening. What right did they have to take what I had worked for over 30 years? Then tell us we have to buy it back.

Estimated cost to restructure to current level would cost at minimum.

CRABS between \$225000 to \$300000

Eels \$52,500

so with EA FB COSTS To Adjust 3 businesses we would be looking at \$1,050,000.

Advise sought through our Accountant He said I would not live long enough to pay it back..

We had no option left 5 generations of history gone

We done everything right we rang the numbers that were given to us .I was told they could not guarantee us shares or if shares would be available. This left myself also my father and my son who has just finished paying off his loan he acquired to buy into the industry. With no options left we did not take the loan the government was offering as the amount of shares we need to come up to our current level \$80.000 just would not cover us.

The stress and anxiety this has caused my family is unbearable it has caused a lot of stress on my marriage . My wife had to be put on heart tablets to slow her heart down due to stress of this reform. I myself had a breakdown and withdrew from my family as I felt I had let them down. I now know it was not me who let them down it was the Nationals and there Reform of our industry they let us all down.

The mental anguish and frustration not being told if shares will be available and the DPI saying ring these numbers .With no more answers then when we started just left us confused and not any wiser. The pressure was just to great for us with no certainty given to us for our future we felt we were being forced to sell..We sold to an investor who ended up with all 3 businesses and I can see this will be our future .There will not be family owned fishing businesses left in NSW it will be just investors owning our industry. If you wish to continue to fish you will need to lease back in and pay around 30% of your income to the investors this will be on top of your lease fees. What hope does our industry have.

With the ministers own words he said he wants to put more seafood on Australians plates as we import over 80% of our seafood. Well how can you take away 50% of an industry and have more seafood?. The shares are just not there for people after 2017 people will not be able to continue fishing with minimum share holding as it would be economically unviable. So you see he has done what he said he did not do he has made active fishers unviable.

In conclusion I hope Niall Blair looks into his children's eyes and sees nothing but disappointment for destroying an Australian Industry. The same as I see the disappointment in my families eyes. For getting out of a NO SECURITY INDUSTRY HE HAS CREATED....



BY FISHERS, FOR FISHERS

Registered office:

577 Singleton Road

Laughtondale 2775

Via Wisemans Ferry

Name:

.....

Address:

..... Date: / /

NSW

Introduction: I am a commercial fisher working in Region:

.....³.....

I have been in the Fishing Industry for (34-50+7) years.

Personnel Comments to the Inquiry

I have many concerns for the way the commercial fishery is being

Please sign every page



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**managed
in NSW
and draw your
attention to my personal views on
the following:**

**a) Consultation: ~~Happy~~
/unhappy**

Why:

Our Port Meeting was at Port Macquarie.

98% of fisherman were against

REFORM. said at this meeting.

I am here to scare you and get

you to sell your business as cheaply

as possible.

.....

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Personal

commercial fishers

Views cont:

Subsidised Trading:

**Is it fair? ~~Yes~~
/no**

**Has the process been adequately
explained?
~~Yes~~/no**

**Can you access a
computer?.....~~Yes/no~~ Did the
training answer your
questions?.....ye
s/no Can you have ease of trading
your shares knowing that you will
get enough to continue what you
did pre the**

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reform..... ~~yes~~

/no

Do you agree that you are trying to
buy back your

job?.....yes/~~no~~

Have you borrowed money

~~yes~~/no

Personal commercial Fisher Views

Mock Share trading: Did you
participate in this:

.....~~yes~~/no

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Commercial Fishers Personal Views

Has DPI given you any outcome of the trading?

~~yes~~/no

Is it a satisfactory result...~~yes~~/no

Please explain:

Still No assurance of
there being any shares.

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Via Wisemans Ferry

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.....
**.....How were you advised
of these changes?**

*Were not told heard by word of
mouth from a Fisher who got
Permit.....*

**Do you have the changes in writing
that give you clear directions on
what is permissible in your region?**

.....yes/no

When did you receive these?

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Personal Commercial Fishers views

Do you have issues in your region
with the Prawn Draw?.....

~~yes~~/ no

Please explain

.....

..... PRAWN DRAW DOES

..... NOT AFFECT ME!

.....

.....

.....

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lakes in NSW

Registered office:
577 Singleton Road
Laughtondale 2775
Via Wisemans Ferry

.....yes/no

Explain: We have already..
been Reduced Removed
Restructured & Reformed to
Near extinction.

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Personal Commercial Fishers views

Given there is approximately 1% of the Australian Population allowed to commercially fish to provide seafood for approximately 78% of the population who do not fish recreationally do you agree that there is a major management issue in providing local seafood to local communities in NSW.

.....yes /~~No~~

Your views:

.....You can not remove over.....
.....50% of an industry and have.....
.....more seafood for consumers.....

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