

**Submission
No 127a**

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Peter Robinson

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Because of this reform & the way it has been structured, I have just had to spend \$40,000 & received nothing in return, except what every other Australian was born with (THE RIGHT TO WORK). Not only did i get nothing for it ! i am going backwards because of it, & shortly i will have to do this again & then again...

My name is Peter Robinson & i have been a commercial fisherman for just over 20yrs. I dont use nets or traps but had to buy a mesh-net license to be able to hand line in the estuary & a fish-trap license to be able to hand line offshore. I use the same equipment as the recreational fishermen. The fish i catch are not targeted by other commercial fishermen & are not under any pressure of being over-fished. I mainly catch Teraglin, Hairtail, Bonito & tailor

This reform has been created around the info from the catch-effort logbooks, if this is the case then the figures used from the logbooks to create this reform are invalid. There is nowhere in the logbooks where it states that every time you go or attempt to go fishing it has to be logged. In my book i log the days i have a receipt that prove I've caught fish.

The last day that the truck takes fish to Sydney markets is Thursday so if i fish Thurs, Fri & Sat nights & keep the fish on ice there is 3 fishing events but only 1 docket on Sunday when i take them to market or if i only catch a few fish i will take them to market every 2nd day because of co-op costs, & a lot of fishermen do this.

If fisheries waved all my license fees & gave me \$20,000 a yr this job still be one of the hardest! I have wet hands for 14hrs, dont sit down, cant take a break, never stop moving, dont get weekends, fish all night, have salad sandwiches for dinner then have to put up with seals, dolphins, sharks, bad weather, wind, rec fishermen, cold water, strong currents, lightning, ships, & no fish, not to mention out of every \$1.00 i earn i get to keep 50 cents & i've just had to pay 40k to another fisherman so i can keep doing this. There is no gain for me in this reform, it won't make me any more money or catch me any more fish. The fishing & fish i catch are sustainable, i have no by-catch. Trawlers would kill more undersized fish in one shot than i would catch in one night.

The reform is needed but should be structured around merit & sustainability.