

Submission
No 148

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Name Suppressed – Partially confidential

Date received: 8 December 2016

Partially
Confidential

Re: reform to Commercial Fisheries NSW

I am employed in a small business in Eden which is reliant on the transport of fresh fish from Eden to City markets. The implementation of any reforms and subsequent diminishing of any fishermen from the Eden area directly places my employment in jeopardy.

It is extremely hard, and **greatly underestimated**- in country NSW the need to have available transport that is complementary to small business owners and is the bane of many many small business holders in country NSW.

Country freight companies rely on the bigger businesses of their area for their bread and butter, if that is compromised, they cease to service small businesses. With nowhere to go- eventually due to impossibility – small businesses close.

The business I work for needs the fish transport company-the only one that is and can- take our finished product South to the city and also to bring supply to us. If this is jeopardised the business I am employed in will most certainly close as there is NO ALTERNATE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE.

I hope due consideration is truly given to the hardship for businesses outside the process of the “reform”.

Committee

I would like to submit on the following letter

This is a copy of a letter send to my local member. It addresses issues directly relating to information regarding the meeting attended for the "Preview Share trading market".

8.9.16-22.9.16

Mr Constance

Quo bono

I attended the 1st meeting of the adjustment subsidy program in Eden 8.9.16.
The meeting was for the "Preview share trading market".

Abysmally, the paperwork from DPI relevant to the information session was not received by any fisherman present at the meeting. Actually, arriving the day after 9.9.16

As this is a multifarious industry it is negligent that no DPI representative was there to answer questions regarding the complex trading market and other questions that arose parallel to the information session . The co-ordinator had to at least 5 times contact DPI regarding questions that she could not answer, if this is what she will be doing all the way up to the North Coast shame shame on DPI and the politics that sanctioned this reform process.

For DPI to INSIST THAT, UNLESS commercial fishermen Register for the **PREVIEW** Share Trading Market (BY 30 SEPT) that will be **to PRACTICE** buying and selling, **they will not be able to register** for the real one in early 2017. This was verbally advised by (co-ordinator)at the meeting. Who gave those instructions to her . ?? What Nanny state are we living in.

16.9.16 Received an email which stated that ". *These sessions are being hosted by an independent trainer to ensure the focus is on the online program rather than answering questions about the reforms. The Department of Primary Industries will not be attending these sessions*"

On the 16th of September DPI clarifies that it will not be attending-
halfway through the program. Who is running this circus.

There is no clarity at all in this process still. And as usual there are more questions that remain unanswered, or not answered clearly so that a decision to move forward can be made .

It seems that the Department is taking a hands off approach to see what the wash up will be, is this the way that a Government and its Department should be acting towards those that rely on them for clear direction.

Commercial Fishermen fish for the community; their fish sales go to consumers who cannot or do not want to fish for themselves, to restaurants, supermarkets, fish retail shops and personal homes, international travellers, grey nomads etc etc. I feel that in the debate when Community Resource is mentioned it is referring to recreational fishing but there are many more out in the community that rely on commercial fishing for their fresh Australian seafood.

NSW commercial fishermen are not criminals to be treated in this manner and non-information process that has been happening. Consultation is a good word but I can also consult verbally without making any sense to my words. Written Information is only good if the author can communicate with clarity and honesty to whom they are communicating.

22.9.16 I found FAQ's on fisheries website that contradicts the co-ordinators statement that "fishermen must register in the pre share trading market to be able to partake in the share trading market next year."

THE FAQ states: How and when do I register to participate in the subsidised share trading market?

Answer: Registrations open 2 December. All fishers will be notified once the registration period opens, and will be sent a registration pack in the mail.

Commercial Fishermen do not trust Fisheries and their actions and no wonder and question, always, Why???

And here is some proof that they are told untruths and that this is an evolving situation that changes from week to week on someone's whim.

I hope that the Productivity Commission report into Fisheries and Aquaculture with some of its sensible recommendations is taken under consideration.

This whole process is a shambles.

A loyal liberal voter all my life, seriously questioning the politics of the day that seems to be happening .

You have been a great advocate for this long forgotten part of the state and thank you for the achievements you have been able to push through for the benefit of your electorate and hoping that you have and will support commercial fishermen in this most nefarious process that is happening.

Rather disillusioned