

**Submission
No 8**

**INQUIRY INTO COMMENCEMENT OF THE FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT ACT 2009**

Name: Mr Robert Chewying

Date Received: 21 January 2022

I would like to submit a submission in regards to the inquiry.
Within the Yuin Nation I've witnessed an appalling approach of fisheries with Traditional Owners accessing seafood from the ocean .
I've seen communities withdraw from cultural events near the water due to the stigma ,community repercussions and possible convictions .
Over the last 50 years I've seen a systemic approach towards indigenous within the Yuin by DPI to dismantle cultural practices.
DPI in this time have never taken the time to engage or listen to what effects compliance rules had and are having on communities and culture.
To witness elders being prosecuted for practising culture and hearing mother's educating children not to go near the water in fear of Fisheries to me is an act of total disrespect to the original owners .
I'm also concerned that in this time there's been campaigns to remove cultural divers and fishers from practising culture fishing by commercial interests with Fisheries, the introduction of a spotters fee for the public to dob in a diver or fisher has forced indigenous away from the water .
Cultural fishing practices were once a celebration of food gathering now its a goal term .
Due to the heavy restrictions of compliance it has removed the soul out of why indigenous use the water .Fisheries compliance over the 50years has systematically forced indigenous generations to rethink the connection to water fisheries compliance has now created psychological conflict with indigenous Lore and has provided no thought to the knock on effects that each rule created over the many years of its introduction.
I and my late father watched compliance being introduced, I heard as a child by the fisheries officer back in the early 70s say to my relatives take the fishing permit its not going to change your life , 50 years on I cannot believe how much destruction has occurred with cultural practices and fish stocks, my father would be ashamed of how DPI have managed the resources of the Yuin.

Traditional Owner