

**Submission
No 12**

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

Name: Mr Chris Young
Date Received: 15 February 2022



Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.

Established 1936

Sean Sloan
Deputy Director General
NSW DPI Fisheries

11/11/2021

Dear Sean

Recent Section 37 Permit issued on South Coast re Cultural Fishing

We are advised that a Section 37 permit has been granted to mesh net lakes that are currently restricted fisheries namely Wonboyn Lake and Merimbula Lake on the far south coast of NSW.

I have sought an understanding through discussion on this initiative and now seek more formally a response to the following questions, which will then better enable me to educate club members and our broader recreational fishing community to achieve a better understanding and respect for Cultural Fishing activities.

1/ Permit Issued for South Coast Lakes

We ask for an understanding as to the basis for this netting permit given that Wonboyn Lake is a Recreational Fishing Haven where mesh netting is prohibited and Merimbula Lake, which has a special heritage prohibiting netting and was not declared a Recreational Fishing Haven at the time because it fell under the provisions of S20A(2) of the NSW Fisheries Management Act, where certain methods of fishing are banned in certain waters in NSW for a variety of reasons including environmental, historical and scientific reasons. Under the department's rules; Clause 28 specifically says - no mesh netting.

2/ Education on Cultural Fishing

We seek material that provides factual context to Cultural Fishing to assist in our members and associates understanding of the initiative

3/ Stakeholder Consultation

Was there stakeholder consultation preceding the granting of this permit? Can we expect consultation with stakeholders going forward?

4/ What does Cultural Fishing look like in the future

How many permits for a waterway will be issued. Whilst permits are issued to individuals that individual is associated with a Cultural Family. Is it appropriate to assume there will be limits? How will it be policed? Which jurisdiction has the responsibility to police?

5/ Resource Sharing

Tourism Operators, towns reliant on fishing-based activities and in the broadest sense the recreational and commercial fisher all rely on access to a resource that is sustainably managed by State Fisheries. What are the risks to these stakeholders, what level of consultation (influence over decisions) can be assumed will be available?

6/ 12 month permit

We believe the current South Coast Permit is for 12 months only. What are the parameters around its renewal?

I am available at any time to provide clarification if that may assist a response to the above.

I am committed to bridging the gap of misunderstanding but require assistance to ensure I represent the facts.

Warmest regards

Peter Haar
President