

Supplementary
Submission
No 13a

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

Name: Mr Wally Stewart

Date Received: 18 February 2022

Connection to Country

Coastal Aboriginal people have a strong connection to the marine environment. It is important to saltwater people that we keep that connection strong, and it comes with a responsibility that was handed down from our ancestors. It is our duty to look after our saltwater country that sustained our people for thousands of years, so the next generation can have the same enjoyment that we have. The responsibility of looking after saltwater country is everybody business, but to the Yuin nation it's more than just a responsibility, it's our spiritual connection to our dreamtime that connects us to our saltwater country. This connection is within us, I can't explain that, but it connects me to the stars, the land and saltwater. This is the balance to our Dreamtime that has been handed down from generations, and that gives me the rights, and responsibility to look after saltwater country. Its important to me to maintain that connection, it's that pathway that will one day take me to my dreamtime. That pathway is Mil-Lum-Ba-Wa; or Mill-Um-Ba-Wa; or Mill-Um-Bar-Wa; meaning the SPARK OF THE WAVES.