

**Submission  
No 45**

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

**Name:** Ms Vivienne Mason

**Date Received:** 7 July 2022

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**From:** Vivian Mason  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 July 2022 10:18 AM  
**To:** Sarah Newlands  
**Subject:** Re: Cultural fishing rights

Sorry to cut my previous email short but I'm not too computer literate but to finish what I was writing to you about my son Ronald Gordon Mason also had a fishing rights court case but was defeated on a technicality. Since my father's incident my family have been advocating hunting and gathering rights for our people. It is our belief that we as 1st Nations people we should not be restricted in our efforts to sustain our families. The Government has had the monopoly on our traditional food sources and made billions of dollars in exports and yet they penalise us. This fight for our rights has been going on forever and we will not stop until we have our rights. I have handed down my knowledge from my ancestors to my great grandchildren. I know they will carry it on when I'm gone. Vivienne Mason , Walbunja Elder Yuin Nation

On Thu, 7 Jul 2022, 3:31 pm Vivian Mason, wrote:

Hi Sarah my name is Vivienne Mason I am a Walbunja Elder from the Far South Coast of NSW. My family have for generations have been involved with cultural fishing. My dad fished to feed his family of 13 at Laperouse I clearly remember the day in 1972 when he came home very upset and angry because the Fisheries refused to let him use his nets as he didn't have a fishing license. His argument was that it was his right as an Aboriginal person to hunt and gather in his own country. This is an issue that I and my family have carried on this fight since that day. My husband Ronald Mason and his cousin Norman Patten and challenged the law in 1986 a few years later Ronald Gor