



10 February 2017

Hon Bill Byrne MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

Re: White Spot Disease and Assistance for Commercial Fishers

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) remains deeply concerned with the impact of white spot disease (WSD). The spread of the virus is a real concern for industry and the with a supply chain value of between \$275 and \$330 million dollars to the Queensland economy alone.

As previously noted, commercial fishers were bitterly disappointed with the government's response regarding compensation. Given this event is still unfolding, the financial pain faced by industry continues to distress commercial fishers and their families.

QSIA is gathering information with respect to the financial and broader economic impacts of WSD on commercial fishers but this will take some time and businesses are facing financial hardship as this work progresses. The current situation means:

- Commercial fishing businesses, which are typically micro-businesses, have had limited to no income over a three-month period with no fixed date for when commercial fishers can resume work; and
- WSD has led to displaced fishing effort because of the quarantining of the Logan River.

On behalf of impacted commercial fishers, I ask for you and the government to reconsider providing financial assistance to impacted commercial fishers.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Eric Perez, QSIA CEO on 0417 631 353 or eo@qsia.com.au.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Harris", is shown within a light grey rectangular box.

Keith Harris
President
Queensland Seafood Industry Association

Cc:

1. Scott Spencer, Deputy Director General, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.