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Sad day for seafood lovers and professional fishing families

In another first for the State Government, poor fisheries management has won the day and bans on net-fishing have been passed by the Labor Party and independents.

The parliamentary debate over net free zones (NFZs) last night also has revealed the extent to which the State government has no idea about fisheries management.

“The member for Ipswich and Chair of the Agriculture and Environment, Ms Jennifer Howard MP, has demonstrated her total lack of understanding of how fisheries are managed in a shared way despite her support for the regulation that will introduce the NFZs in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. All of the State government speakers seemed to be speaking from the recreational fishing playbook” said Mr Keith Harris, Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) Deputy President.

“The NFZ proposals do nothing but give recreational fishers access to net caught species and prevent commercial fishers from making a living.

“The State government made an incredibly political statement by supporting the NFZs – they are saying to Queenslanders your rights do not matter, fisheries management do not matter and the exclusion of profitable and viable local small businesses do not matter” said Mr Harris.

“This ludicrous, unfair and unjustified policy is a political ploy and the Minister knows this to be true. Commercial fishers in Queensland and across Australia need to pay attention to and be very afraid of the precedent set last night” Mr Harris said.

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