

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **Imported Prawn Ban**

Queensland's peak body has welcomed a Federal government ban on importing uncooked prawns.

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association's (QSIA) President, Keith Harris said today's announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce is a positive step.

"At this stage, the source of an outbreak of white spot disease (WSD) is unknown but one possible source is imported uncooked prawns," said Mr Harris.

Tests on imported prawns in the past have found WSD and this is an issue that has concerned the Australian wild catch and aquaculture organisations.

"I congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister on this step and look forward to working with the Federal and State Governments to help prevent the spread of the disease beyond the impacted areas where it has been discovered. I recognise this ban as an interim move while the source of the infection is investigated and the adequacy of current biosecurity measures reviewed," said Mr Harris.

"The disease affects crustaceans. These products have a retail value of more than \$270 million from Queensland alone so this is a very important issue for our state," said Mr Harris.

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