

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Leadership Needed in Queensland

NO confidence is the unanimous verdict of the State's commercial seafood industry peak body and key regional bodies regarding the current fisheries reform process. Industry has lost faith in the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy as a blueprint for change. "I have no confidence in the Minister's leadership of this process and the way in which Fisheries Queensland is undertaking its role" said Keith Harris, Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) President.

"QSIA has a 100-year history of being involved in every aspect of commercial fisheries management and consultations, now we are being excluded and even ignored in matters that effect every part of our lives. Multi-generational fishing families are going to torn apart by the political agenda of this government. We refuse to be steamrolled by totally blatant attempts to destroy our sustainable fisheries" said Mr Harris.

"It is apparent that the Queensland Labor Party is unable to walk away from extreme green and anti-fishing ideologies, which is directly reducing the availability of fresh wild caught, local seafood and in the process destroying small family businesses along the length of the Queensland coast".

The Association seeks the following: (1) A halt and review the Queensland fisheries reform process including: (a) a review would include quota management arrangements, (b) a review of zoning and (c) modelling of the impacts of the reform on the catch to consumer seafood supply chain, (2) A complete renewal of senior staff within Fisheries Queensland and (3) Removal of WWF Australia (a cashed-up, overseas green group) and the Australian Marine Conservation Society from government working groups.

The commercial fishing industry and their customers, seafood consumers, are in dire need of a new State government that:

1. Supports local jobs;
2. Supports small business in coastal and regional Queensland; and
3. Understands and creates policy that does not undermine food producers.

"In 2020, we all have a chance to assess the performance of a State government that panders to the fake green movement" said Mr Harris.

ENDS

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The Queensland government and Fisheries Minister, Mark Furner have shifted the strategic focus of Fisheries Queensland to build and develop a vision for the aquaculture, recreational and charter fishing sectors. This government has spent millions of taxpayer funds on compliance and nothing on a vision for the commercial, wild harvest fisheries.

The fisheries management problem can be summarised as follows:

- The so-called reform process has led to the wholesale use of quota management and regional zoning.
- The so-called reform process is based on the manipulation of the community into believing our fisheries are unsustainable.
- Fisheries Queensland's focus is fisheries compliance for the commercial seafood sector and the beginning of the corporatisation of the State's fisheries.
- Add to this the introduction of net free zones (NFZs) and the potential for the introduction of recreational only fishing areas (ROFA).
- Industry has little control of our fate when groups like WWF Australia and the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) are dictating the fisheries reform agenda.

Pandering to special interest groups fake green is putting our access to seafood at risk.



You can access more information by visiting the QLD 2020 webpage [here](#)

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