

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 September 2019

Support for Food Production Critical

LEADERSHIP from the State Opposition is what food producers and in particular commercial fisheries need. 'The commercial seafood industry in Queensland is under attack by a fake-green pandering State Government and yesterday's media release regarding their stance against the existing fisheries regulation' said Keith Harris, Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) President.

The Gulf of Carpentaria Commercial Fisherman Association (GoCCFA), Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Associations (MBSIA) and QSIA support the LNP's position and agree with their damaging assessment of the State Government.

Under the QSIA's Qld 2020 strategy we will openly support a policy approach for this great industry 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.

'The regulations being challenged create significant hardships for commercial fishing small businesses in remote areas like the Gulf of Carpentaria. On-board processing is a must in a remote location and under the new regulations we will be required to land product whole' said Shane Ward, Chairman of the GoCCFA.

'We fish on behalf of the community and this so-called reform restricts what can be commercial harvested and at the end of the day seafood lovers may be forced to pay more for local seafood' said Michael Wood, President of the MBSIA.

At its heart Qld 2020 seeks the following:

- A halt and review the Queensland fisheries reform process including: (a) a review of 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.
- A complete renewal of senior staff within Fisheries Queensland.
- Removal of WWF Australia (a cashed-up, overseas green group) and the Australian Marine Conservation Society from government working groups.

'Qld 2020 is about: a fair go – for food producers; for families in regional and coastal Queensland; and small business job creators' said Mr Harris.

ENDS

Further Information:

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Qld 2020 Links

Qld 2020 Strategy

<https://qsia.com.au/qld-2020/>

Qld 2020 News Posts #01: Fake Green Groups

<https://qsia.com.au/2019/09/13/qld-2020-news-posts-01-fake-green-groups/>

Qld 2020 News Posts #02: The End of Fence Sitting

<https://qsia.com.au/2019/09/17/qld-2020-news-posts-02-the-end-of-fence-sitting/>

This media release is supported by:



Queensland Seafood Industry Association



Gulf of Carpentaria Commercial Fisherman Association



Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association