



20 October 2019

Graeme Bolton
Deputy Director-General
Fisheries and Forestry
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Level 5, 41 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Bolton

Re: The Boyne Tannum Hookup

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) is aware of discussions between commercial and recreational fishers regarding the use of the Boyne River. I am led to understand that commercial fishers were prepared to work with representatives of The Boyne Tannum Hookup group.

The attached Facebook post from The Boyne Tannum Hookup group seeks the removal of commercial fishing in the region in the future. Local commercial fishers have been prepared to work with this group but even a so called 'win-win' is never enough for The Boyne Tannum Hookup group.

I am also concerned with the role being played by Fisheries Queensland. The second attachment to this letter from Fisheries Queensland from you which speaks to reducing conflict between the sectors. There is no conflict, the recreational fishers as represented by The Boyne Tannum Hookup group wanted a temporary halt to commercial fishing and local operators were prepared to work with the group.

What they really want equates to recreational only fishing areas (ROFAs). Commercial fishing is a legitimate and legal use of the marine resource and simply because this group, amongst others, want commercial fishing removed is not a justification for doing so.

This State Government's failed net free zones (NFZs) policy has not generated more regional tourism. The policy was a political thank you to local recreational fishing groups. All the policy has done is secured access rights to greedy, local recreational

fishers that truly believe their right to fish is more important than our right to provide fresh local seafood to the community. This would explain why this group is seeking a ROFA in the future.

As the State peak body, we are asking local commercial fishers:

- To consider resisting any further work with recreational fishing groups.
- To advise their local State and Federal members of the situation and seek public support of their businesses as important food producers.
- Draw a line in the sand – unless otherwise advised commercial fishing of any kind in Queensland that meets Fisheries Queensland onerous regulations is legal.
- A local, recreational fishing event is one of many activities in the region that are legal. There is plenty of coastline available for this recreational fishing competition, perhaps the organisers of The Boyne Tannum Hookup need to look elsewhere to hold their competition?
- Commercial fishers should send their views as soon as possible to:
 - By email to fisheriesmanagers@daf.qld.gov.au or in writing to GPO Box 46, Brisbane Qld 4000 no later than **Friday 25 October 2019**.

I will do what I can to let the public, politicians and industry understand this situation which underlies a more important discussion around food production and commercial fishing access to the marine resource. Industry tried being reasonable as captured by a communique in late September outlining a regional meeting in Gladstone to discuss a halt to commercial fishing during The Boyne Tannum Hookup group's fishing competition.

Fishing competitions inject limited extra spending for 1 or 2 days per year along the Queensland coast whereas commercial fishers are working to supply fresh local seafood on a daily basis.

It's time those in power make a decision – support food producers or a greedy, recreational fishing group. There is never a 'win-win' situation when dealing with recreational fishing groups.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact Eric Perez on M: 0417 631 353 or E: eo@gsia.com.au.

Yours faithfully,



Keith Harris

President
Queensland Seafood Industry Association

Attachment A

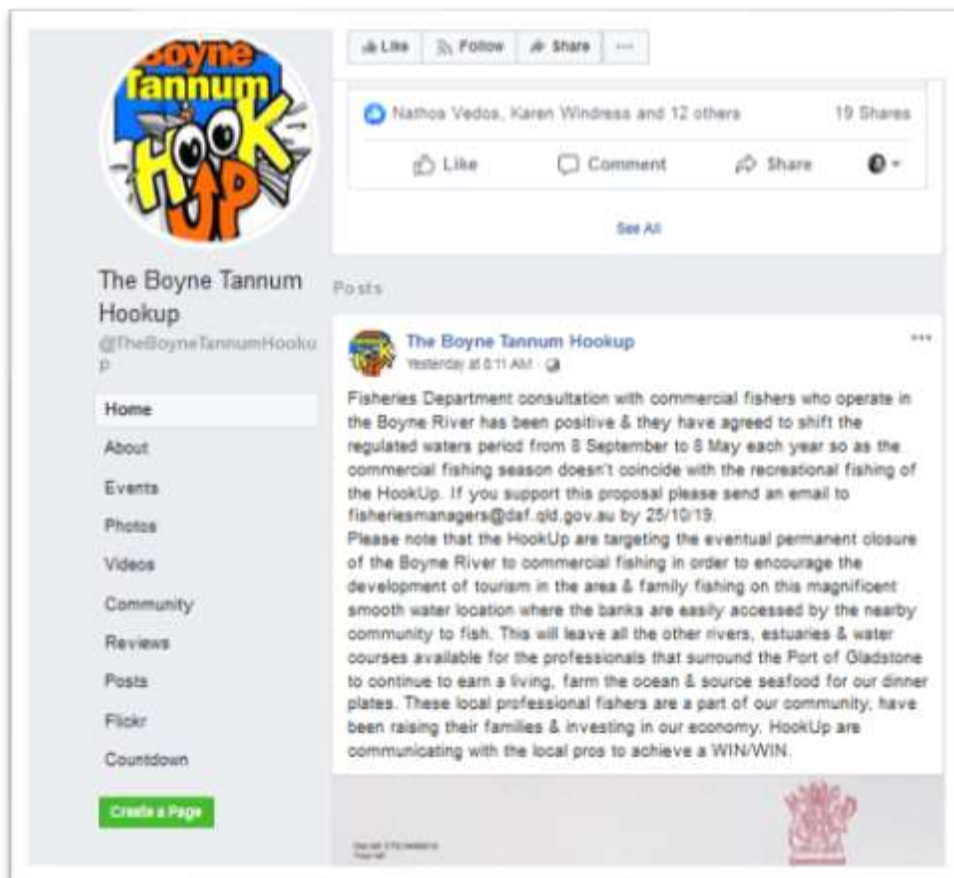
Facebook download...

The Boyne Tannum Hookup

Yesterday at 8:11 AM

Fisheries Department consultation with commercial fishers who operate in the Boyne River has been positive & they have agreed to shift the regulated waters period from 8 September to 8 May each year so as the commercial fishing season doesn't coincide with the recreational fishing of the HookUp. If you support this proposal please send an email to fisheriesmanagers@daf.qld.gov.au by 25/10/19.

Please note that the HookUp are targeting the eventual permanent closure of the Boyne River to commercial fishing in order to encourage the development of tourism in the area & family fishing on this magnificent smooth water location where the banks are easily accessed by the nearby community to fish. This will leave all the other rivers, estuaries & water courses available for the professionals that surround the Port of Gladstone to continue to earn a living, farm the ocean & source seafood for our dinner plates. These local professional fishers are a part of our community, have been raising their families & investing in our economy. HookUp are communicating with the local pros to achieve a WIN/WIN.



Attachment B

