

23 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: Security of resource access

As the national peak industry body representing the wild-catch, aquaculture and post-harvest sectors of the Australian seafood industry, I am contacting you to express our concerns regarding developments in Queensland inshore waters.

In mid-September I wrote to Minister the Hon. Mark Furner regarding the creation of the Resource Security Task Force and requesting support in providing greater surety of access for our industry. While I await the Minister's response, it is concerning to learn of further statements by recreational fishing group regarding their desire to have commercial fishing removed from certain waterways, specifically the Boyne River.

I understand the commercial industry made concessions to ensure the recreational fishers had unfettered access for the Boyne Tannum Hook Up fishing competition. This is exactly the sort of action that should foster improved relationships around resource sharing and should be applauded. Sadly, the apparent response has been to ignore the spirit of this offer and look to completely ban legitimate commercial activities.

This surely sets back the chances for more harmonious relations and true resource sharing between recreational and commercial fishers.

It also highlights the need for much greater clarity around the status of commercial fishers' resource access security and the reinforces the aim of the Resource Security Task Force:

to develop a commercial fishing access rights system that delivers strong, secure, transferable, long term access rights to be enshrined in and protected by Commonwealth and State/Territory fisheries legislation, and recognised and accepted as 'collateral' by financial institutions.

The this end the Executive has agreed to develop a policy framework which:

1. underpins the long-term security of commercial fishing access rights in accordance with our primary objective, and
2. recognises and provides for the principles of S51(xxxi) of the Commonwealth Constitution to apply in all circumstances where unjust acquisition and/or reallocation of commercial fishing rights occurs (i.e. the right to compensation where unjust acquisition and/or re-allocation occurs).

Put simply, without improved surety of access, the Australian seafood industry will struggle to attract investment, to innovate and to achieve it's aim of putting more than 1.5 billion meals on Australian tables by 2030.

We are committed to finding solutions for better resource sharing arrangements and will continue to support industry to resolve this fundamental and critical issue.

Regards,



Jane Lovell
CEO