

# Standing down from Fisheries Working Group participation until reforms are legislated

Dear Ms Palaszczuk

Firstly we want to take the opportunity to thank the Queensland Labor Government for originally committing to long overdue fisheries reform consistent with your published election promises and subsequent Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027. When the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries called for volunteers to the various fishery working groups we were convinced that our efforts would be rewarded and that our time commitment to the Working Group process would bear fruit.

Unfortunately in recent months we have been completely disillusioned by the inability of the Labor Government to legislate critical commercial fishing reforms that we know have been completed by Fisheries

Queensland and have been waiting to be legislated since the end of 2019. We plead for you to demonstrate strong leadership and get this last key piece of enabling legislation passed before the caretaker period commences prior to the October election.

To actively pursue our participation, engage with us, draw upon our volunteer efforts to help the Queensland DAF work through the various fisheries management issues only to see the implementation of agreed measures stall at the political level is a betrayal of the good faith we placed in you and your elected colleagues. Volunteer efforts should be cherished and not squandered.

This letter formalises our collective decision to stand down from the Fisheries Reform Working Groups established by your government until agreed

reforms are legislated. We have not taken the decision to boycott your working groups lightly, but feel there is no other option for us to send a clearer message at this point in time. If reforms are not regulated, rest assured that we will hold the Queensland Labor Government responsible.

There is an opportunity right now for you and your government to take credit for a key piece of Queensland fisheries history by passing these critical reforms and in doing so maintain political integrity in keeping Labor's election promises. The choices and associated consequences sit entirely on your shoulders.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Johnston, John Bennett, Steve Morgan, Dan Kaggelis, Jason Bradford, Jeffrey Ahchay, Matthew Hubbard.