

# MEDIA RELEASE



30 January 2026

## ROAD TAX ON FISHING FUEL WOULD “KILL INDUSTRY”

IMPOSING a road tax on fuel used in commercial fishing vessels would kill the industry, Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) Executive Officer David Bobbermen warned today.

“Fuel costs are high and profit margins are tight in commercial fishing,” Mr Bobbermen said. “Imposing a road tax on the industry and increasing diesel costs by more than 50 cents a litre would push many operators over the edge.”

Mr Bobbermen said there had been discussion in the lead-up to the Federal Government budget in May that the rebate of diesel tax to primary industry and mining for off-road fuel use should be scrapped but this would be catastrophic for fishing families and other primary producers.

“The Federal Government applies a tax of more than 50 cents a litre on fuel to pay for road works. It is a road tax. Fishing vessels – and farmers’ tractors and miners’ onsite machines – don’t use roads, and so that tax is returned to them in the form of a rebate. The refund of fuel tax has operated this way for 20 years.

“Opponents of mining in particular characterise that rebate as a ‘subsidy’. It is not a subsidy. It is a rebate of a tax that does not apply to primary producers and miners. Applying it to primary producers like commercial fishers would effectively tax many operators out of business.

“The seafood industry cannot absorb additional costs to operations. We already compete heavily with imports coming from other countries with much less regulation and lower production costs, including fuel costs.

“The existing rebate on diesel and petrol used in on-water fishing operations is critical to maintaining a viable Queensland seafood industry and continuing the supply of Queensland’s sustainably caught seafood.

“To ensure fishing operations are economically viable and the community maintains its access to fresh local seafood, and to ensure the employment of Queenslanders and businesses in the agriculture and mining sectors, QSIA supports the retention of the current fuel tax credit program.

“We are calling on the Federal Government to maintain the rebate program in its current form. ”

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Note: For fuel rebate details, see the ATO site [From 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 | Australian Taxation Office](#)

## **About the Queensland Commercial Fishing Industry**

The Queensland Commercial Fishing Industry operates along the Queensland Coast using varied apparatus, mainly pots, lines, nets and trawling. Historically, it is an industry important to many small coastal towns. In the most recent economic data (2021-22 year), it contributed over \$250 million to the State's GVP. This contribution was valued at "beach price" – which significantly undervalues the industry. Over 900 businesses work in the industry, employing around 3,000 people.

## **About QSIA**

Queensland Seafood Industry Association Inc (QSIA) is Queensland's peak membership-based organisation representing businesses in the wild harvest commercial seafood industry in Queensland. Its history dates back over 100 years. Membership activity ranges from the NSW border to the NT border and encompasses all forms of commercial fishing – namely line, pot, net and trawl. QSIA also has members that provide pre- and post-harvest goods and services to the industry.

The QSIA Vision is:

*The trusted advocate for a profitable, thriving and sustainable Queensland Wild Caught Seafood Industry.*

QSIA Mission:

*To champion Queensland's wild-caught seafood industry, its people, and its communities by enhancing profitability, supporting best practices, fostering innovation, and maintaining sustainability.*

QSIA is proud and honoured to have Mr Keith Payne VC, AM as its patron.

