

6 September 2016

To: NSW commercial fishing entitlement holders

## **Considerations for the Establishment of a Commercial Fishing Advisory Council**

### **Commitment by the Minister**

The NSW Government has engaged NMAC(SA) Pty Ltd to undertake a project to identify the Industry's considerations for the establishment of a commercial fishing advisory council to provide advice directly to the Minister.

This project is a result of the commitment from the Hon. Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, on 21 October 2015, when he announced that *"In response to concerns, the Government will form a commercial fishing advisory council. This council will be the key advisory body to advise on matters referred to it and on other matters it considers relevant to its sector."* *"The council can be established under the existing provisions of the Act and would report directly to the Minister, not the secretary of the department. We will seek industry input with regards to the establishment, composition and procedures of the new advisory council."*

### **Who is NMAC(SA) Pty Ltd?**

NMAC(SA) Pty Ltd provides advice and support to a range of commercial fishing industry associations in South Australia on issues of fisheries management, industry development and government relations. It has also been involved in delivering a number of projects for the industry at state and national level that have addressed issues of industry governance and leadership.

### **The Project**

NMAC(SA) has been engaged to undertake a workshop with members of the NSW commercial fishing industry to identify the Industry's considerations for the establishment of a commercial fishing advisory council. We are now seeking the views of all commercial industry entitlement holders on the matters that should guide the operation and activities of the new advisory council. Following the workshop and industry feedback process we will be providing advice to the Minister on the structure, roles and operational requirements for a new commercial fishing advisory council.

### **A Workshop with Industry**

A workshop was held at the Sydney Fish Market on 5 August 2016 with 19 participants. The participants were commercial fishers from a range of regions and fishery / share class working groups, the Co-op's Association, the NSW Seafood Industry Council, the Professional Fishermen's Association and Wild Caught Fisheries Coalition.

The attached document outlines the outcomes from the workshop. The principles were developed on the basis of individual inputs feeding into collective views, through a process of idea identification and evaluation and then assessment by all participants at the workshop. This process ensured that a broad range of personal views were expressed and assessed by those at the workshop.

## Your feedback is important

Attached is a discussion paper that outlines the outcomes from the workshop. We are interested in your thoughts on the key principles that should guide the operation and activities of the commercial fishing advisory council.

Each principle identified through the workshop has a comment section. We ask that you provide your thoughts on the principles in the comments section of the discussion paper.

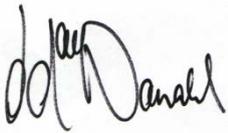
Please provide your comments to NMAC(SA) by 28 September 2016 using one of the following methods:

- Email: [projects@nmac.com.au](mailto:projects@nmac.com.au)
- Post: PO Box 1062 Clearview SA 5085
- Fax: 08 82663392

If you wish to reply by email and would like an electronic copy of the information paper it can be found on the DPI Fisheries website at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/consultation/ccfnswac>

Thank you for taking the time to consider the opportunity for improving engagement between industry and government on matters that are important to your industry, fishery, and business into the future.



**Neil MacDonald**  
Director