



**Niall Blair**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Lands and Water

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **AMENDMENT BILL DELIVERS FOR STATE'S FISHERIES RESOURCES**

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair today introduced a Bill in to the NSW Parliament that will improve the management of the State's fisheries resources.

The Fisheries Management Amendment Bill 2015 contains important amendments to allow for more flexible, streamlined and modern fisheries management in NSW.

"This Bill gets rid of unnecessary red tape burdens that have plagued the state's commercial, recreational charter and Aboriginal fishing sectors," Mr Blair said.

"It is about allowing these fishing sectors to thrive and to make the best use of resource which is owned by all the people of NSW."

A number of changes have been made as a result of the latest round of consultation, including the withdrawal of specific provision under which boat fish catch limits could be set if required.

The Bill also establishes an Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund to provide a transparent accounting mechanism for future expenditure related to Aboriginal fishing.

The Bill will deliver key administrative benefits for the State's commercial fishers and charter boat fishers, through the full implementation of the online administration and accounting system, FishOnline.

FishOnline will provide the fishing industry with improved access to information and enable them to carry out transactions and reporting functions directly, in real time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Bill does not lock in any matters relating to the proposed NSW Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program.

The Bill includes a number of amendments that will enable cost-effective implementation of the proposed business adjustment program in the future, if required.

The independent Structural Adjustment Review Committee has submitted its final recommendations to Government, having recently completed a round of targeted consultation with industry and other stakeholder groups on its draft recommendations.

The NSW Government will carefully consider the recommendations before making any decisions in relation to the adjustment program.

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