



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday, 1 September, 2011

#### **NSW WORKS TO SECURE STATE'S COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

The NSW Government has taken steps toward securing the State's fresh local seafood supply by commissioning an independent review of current commercial fishing arrangements, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, announced today.

"The NSW Government is committed to bringing about positive reform for the commercial fishing sector and this review, which was a commitment of the NSW Liberals & Nationals prior to the election, is part of that commitment," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

The review of the State's commercial fisheries will be conducted by three independent experts who have significant national and international experience in fisheries management and administration.

"Richard Stevens, Peter Neville and Ian Cartwright will carry out the review, which will, among other things, examine current and alternative fisheries management models and opportunities," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"This independent process will review the commercial fisheries policy, management and administration currently in place and recommend strategies that will enhance the long-term viability and sustainability of the industry."

The NSW seafood industry generates more than half a billion dollars of economic activity each year, employs more than 4000 people and supplies world-class seafood to both local and global consumers.

"For more than a decade the Labor Government failed to secure the future of the NSW seafood industry as well as the supply of local seafood to NSW markets and this resulted in uncertainty for those working in the sector.

"The NSW Government is working to create a strong viable commercial fishing industry for NSW. The review process will be transparent and robust consultation will be undertaken to ensure the best outcome is achieved for all stakeholders," Ms Hodgkinson said.

The Terms of Reference for the review are:

- Examine current and alternative fisheries management models;
- Review the stakeholder consultation framework;
- Review the current legislation to ensure effective resource management;
- Examine the fisheries sharing arrangements relating to commercial fisheries access;
- Review alternative fisheries management opportunities;
- Provide advice on the most appropriate commercial fishing industry structural adjustment program.

The review is set to be completed by February 2012.

### **MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL:**

- Mr Richard Stevens OAM is the Deputy Chair and Commissioner of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and is currently a board member of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.
- Mr Peter Neville, was the former Deputy Director General of Queensland DPI and the Deputy Chair of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. Since retirement, he is holding the chair of the Southern Blue-fin Tuna Management Advisory Committee for the Commonwealth and has recently completed three years as the chair of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.
- Mr Ian Cartwright, Director of a fisheries consultancy Thalassa Consulting, is highly qualified in the areas of fisheries-related science, economics, marketing, research, technology transfer and commercialisation. Is currently the chair of the independent NSW Total Allowable Catch Setting and Review Committee.