



The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

IM17/13751

Mr Stuart Richey
Chair
Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council
PO Box 4157
COFFS HARBOUR JETTY NSW 2450

Dear ~~Mr Richey~~ *Stuart*

I am pleased to receive the advice of the Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council, and to hear that the Council had a productive first meeting.

I wish to thank you and Council members for your time, and consideration of a wide range of challenging issues, and commend the advice you have provided. The recommendations of the Council will greatly assist the development of regulation to support implementation of the Business Adjustment Program (BAP).

I also support the commitment of the Council to engage with industry beyond its members, including through regional meetings, informal invitations and consideration of communication to support openness and transparency in its function.

I accept the recommendations of the Council in regard to the BAP Regulation Consultation Process. Regarding the Council's recommendation on transfer of new species shares, in the first instance I would like to allow fishing business owners and fishers to have first opportunity to benefit from the new quota shares, to further assist adjustment to the new arrangements. Further down the track, I recognise the potential benefits of additional flexibility in allowing transfer of these shares to any person.

I will instruct the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries, to pursue regulation amendments to give effect to these matters. I take this opportunity to welcome advice on similarly fruitful future meetings.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, Mr David McPherson, Group Director Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture, in DPI Fisheries, can be contacted on (02) 6691 9680.

Yours sincerely

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