



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

OUT18/15007

Mr Stuart Richey AM  
Chair  
Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council  
PO Box 4157  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Dear Mr Richey *Stuart*

It is a pleasure to receive the advice from the Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council, and to hear that its members continue to provide independent advice on strategic and policy issues relating to the commercial fishing industry in NSW.

The commitment of the Council members is evident in recommending an additional meeting to be undertaken in September this year, to review industry submissions received on the proposed Penalty Demerit Scheme (PDS).

The recommendations provided by the Council are being considered and will enable the Department of Primary Industries to consult further with Parliamentary Counsel on the drafting of this scheme.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Council for its proactive recommendations made on the proposed PDS, namely, inclusion of additional recommendations in regard to the potential risk associated with disqualified individuals from other jurisdictions re-entering NSW fisheries, and the consideration of automatic disqualification for certain high level offences.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further Mr David McPherson, Group Director of Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture in DPI Fisheries, can be contacted on 0407 032 758.

Yours sincerely

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