

Commercial Fisheries Business Efficiency Program Consultation

Paper 4: Inland restricted fishery endorsements

What is being reviewed?

The rules that apply to the transfer and holding of inland restricted fishery endorsements.

There are three types of endorsement in the Inland Restricted Fishery

- Class A: Yabby and Carp endorsement (transferable),
- Class B: Carp endorsement (transferable), and
- Class D: Carp endorsement (non-transferable).

Each inland fishing businesses can only include one type of endorsement. Also, a person (or the owner of a fishing business) cannot:

- hold both a class A and a class B endorsement,
- hold a transferable endorsement (that is, a class A or class B endorsement) and a non-transferable endorsement (that is, a class D endorsement), or
- be nominated to hold endorsements for more than one inland fishing business.

What is proposed?

It is proposed to allow a person to:

- 1) own a fishing business with multiple inland endorsements (that are not of the same kind),
- 2) own multiple inland fishing businesses, and
- 3) be nominated to hold endorsements for more than one inland fishing business.

Fishing businesses

The increased flexibility proposed means that a new approach to fishing businesses is required, like what applies in some other fisheries. For example:

- If an inland fishing business has multiple endorsements and one of the endorsements is transferred to a person who does not own a fishing business, a new fishing business will need to be created for that endorsement.
- If an inland business owner acquires a second endorsement of the same kind (but not the associated fishing business), a new fishing business will need to be created for that endorsement.
- If an inland fishing business has no endorsements because the endorsement has been transferred separate to the business, the business will be cancelled.

Management fees

The increased flexibility proposed means that a revised approach to management fees is needed to maintain parity with the existing total management fees payable.

This would involve attributing the fees to endorsements directly, instead of the fishing business that the endorsement is a component of.

For example, a person who owns one fishing business with a Class A endorsement and a Class B endorsement would pay the same as a person who owns one fishing business with a Class A endorsement and another business with a Class B endorsement.

The current management fees, as follows, would remain:

Class A: Yabby and Carp endorsement: \$1,184

Class B: Carp endorsement: \$401

Class D: Carp endorsement: \$401

Why the change?

Benefits from the proposed changes include providing fishers the ability to grow their business (or businesses), expanded arrangements allowing for operational efficiencies and reduced regulatory burden (or 'red-tape').

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