



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

IM18/9882

Your Ref: OUT18/5641

Mr Stuart Richey  
Chair  
CommFish  
PO Box 4157  
COFFS HARBOUR JETTY NSW 2450

Dear Mr Richey

Thank you for forwarding me the Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council recommendations on ways to assist the recovery of mulloway stocks in NSW. The industry representatives involved and CommFish NSW should feel proud of that way they have raised to this challenge.

I have requested that the NSW Department of Primary Industries progress the removal of the possession limit of 10 mulloway between 45 and 70 cm that currently applies to Estuary General meshing net fishers. Once the change is made it will mean the 70 cm mulloway minimum size limit applies to everyone.

I have also requested that the requirement for meshing net fishers to have to register a meshing net be removed. In addition to lowering interactions with juvenile mulloway, this should assist Estuary General fishers with their diverse fishing operations.

The recommendation to implement a system whereby commercially caught mulloway can be differentiated from other mulloway at the point of landing has been referred to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for their advice.

The recommendations related to data collection, gear technology and other research are best progressed by having a departmental scientist attend a future CommFish meeting to present and answer questions on the mulloway recovery program and discuss further research opportunities. The department will make those arrangements.

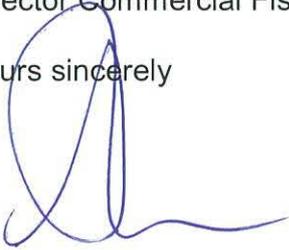
I appreciate the time and effort that CommFish NSW members have spent on reviewing all of the information on mulloway and thank them for their progressive approach to making recommendations on ways that the commercial fishing industry can improve the resilience of NSW's fisheries.

I would appreciate it if you could ensure that mulloway recovery remains a standing item on the agenda so that we can continue oversight of this important program.

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If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr David McPherson, Group Director Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture DPI Fisheries, on (02) 6691 9680.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Niall Blair', written over the words 'Yours sincerely'.

17 MAY 2018

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