



The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

OM18/21

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

Dear Mr Richey, *Stuart*

I would like to thank CommFish for the fantastic work they have undertaken since their appointment in mid-2017.

I am writing to address a concern raised with me last year by the Ocean Hauling member in relation to minimum shareholding endorsements and the possibility of a review of the number of endorsements in the next few years.

I would like to give some assurance to CommFish and the wider fishing industry that there is no intention to increase the minimum shareholding in any fishery or review the number of endorsements.

It is important to note that the Department of Primary Industries may refer a review of minimum shareholdings in a fishery to a panel of experts on the Total Allocable Fishing Committee in the unlikely event that there is a sustainability issue within a fishery or if there is a significant push from industry to alter a minimum shareholding. This process would not occur without proper consultation with the industry before any decision was made. I would like to reiterate that there are no current plans to do this.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

14 FEB 2018

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