

Commercial Fishers Do Not Accept Current Reforms

14 May 2014

The PFA has met and spoken to our members from across New South Wales. The majority of members do not support the reform in its current format.

The reform was intended to create strong links between commercial fishing shares and their level of access to the resource. What was proposed in the papers for many of the share classes however, reduces the fisher's access levels and requires viable operators to significantly invest to return to their original catch levels for no visible gain.

Tricia Beatty, Executive Office of the PFA stated that "the PFA does not support the reform in its current format across many of our share classes. We are concerned with the proposed level of investment being requested and the uncertainty that our industry faces."

"We have been meeting with various groups of fishermen and individuals who have spoken of their own personal concerns and hardships under the proposed reform;" said Ms Beatty.

"We welcome the support of MPs across the state in supporting our industry's concerns. We are now in negotiations with the Government about the ways forward for our industry."

Ms Beatty advised "We want a viable industry, we want a strong industry. But many of the reform options I fear will irrevocably hurt our industry, and drive good operators out. We need to come up with alternative options that we as an industry can agree with. The Government has said to us that they are willing to explore alternative options."

The PFA is going to be negotiating with other industry bodies to discuss how to meet and respond to the reform program. We can only hope that our industry can stand united at this cross roads and that Government and the Minister will listen to the recommendations of the industry.

For media enquiries please contact Tricia Beatty, Executive Officer of the PFA on 0429 303 371 or email eo@pfai.com.au.