



Fishers Welcomes Promise of Long-awaited Advisory Council

Media Release

23 October 2015

The Professional Fishermen's Association of NSW (PFA) welcomes Minister Blair's recent promise to establish a Commercial Fishing Advisory Council.

In Wednesday's Second Reading of the Fisheries Management Amendment Bill 2015 the Minister announced that due to many concerns the industry had raised, he would be establishing the long awaited Commercial Fishing Advisory Council.

Executive Officer of the PFA, Ms Tricia Beatty stated "the lack of a Commercial Fishing Advisory Council to advise the Minister about important issues facing our industry is much needed and long over-due. Not for many years have we had a strong communication and advisory pathway to the Minister."

"This gap has caused much frustration for our industry and PFA has strongly lobbied for its establishment for a long time. With similar bodies already established for recreational and Aboriginal fishing sectors it left industry without a key advisory voice to the Minister."

"Our Industry is faced with major structural upheaval and constant pressure regarding our management and yet had no formal advisory mechanism to the Minister – this council is an important and crucial step in addressing this gap. We also welcome the Minister having industry input into the regards of the establishment and composition of the new council," said Ms Beatty.

We are greatly encouraged that Minister Blair has listened to these concerns and will take strong positive action in rectifying this.

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