

*The PFA represents its members' interests. If you need our help on any issue, please do not hesitate in contacting the PFA head office (6652 7374) &/or the Executive Officer (0429303371)*

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## **PFA & THE REFORM**

To reiterate, yet again, the PFA's position regarding the Reform: We are fundamentally opposed to the basic principle of the reform that pressures fishers to purchase latent shares to address the over allocation of shares. As previously described there is no immediate incentive for many shareclasses to purchase shares into the existing fisheries management arrangements – there being no additional advantage for fishers in purchasing these shares or non-known value of these shares. I refer all members to our submissions to the NSW Government for specific details. PFA has made this clear in our conversations with all the political parties and NSW Government. We still strongly believe that there needs to be continuous conversations with the NSW Government. In our conversations with political parties we have continuously sought more money for the restructure package, numerous difference approaches (2 stages process that starts with a full buyout etc), support and assistance for fishers, more information and stronger industry consultation, and numerous other issues. We have also taken an open and transparent approach – if members want copies of our minutes they are available, our newsletters have incorporated summaries of our meeting discussions etc.

**The PFA represents only its member's positions and concerns. We do not nor have ever claimed to represent anyone else other than our members (to do so is legally considered "misrepresentation"). Whatever our members position on the reform – your viewpoints will be and must be represented.**

## **PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY**

Several members have asked what is involved in a Parliamentary Inquiry:

1. A committee is to inquire into and report on any matter referred to the committee by resolution of the House.
2. A committee may inquire into and report on the expenditure, performance or effectiveness of any government department, statutory body or corporation, relevant to the portfolios allocated to the committee.
3. A committee of inquiry has powers of investigation.
4. The committee of inquiry's report is presented to the Parliament – there is no obligation for the recommendations of the report to be adopted.

We have been told that the Terms of Reference for the Parliamentary Inquiry are still being drafted by Labor who will provide to us once completed. Labor expects to call for the Parliamentary Inquiry next Tuesday. Once called by Labor, the Upper House will debate whether they support the appointment of a Parliamentary Inquiry or not. Contact your local members and especially the Hunters and Shooters Party and the Christian Democrat Party to put forward your views on the reform and the inquiry.

## **COMMERCIAL FISHING MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The NSW Government engaged Neil Macdonald to consult with industry on the structure of the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Council. Mr MacDonald's report will be formally submitted and considered in the near future. Once this report is received and considered, the NSW Government will then call for nominations. This Council will provide another pathway for industry to engage and provide advice to Government on management of our sector.

## COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SUBSIDY PROGRAM

- Fishing business buyouts applications have been extended to 2 December. Download the application form (PDF, 164.91 KB)
- Rural Assistance Authority low interest rate loan applications extended to 2 December. Download the application form

Visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/asp](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/asp) or call the Adjustment Subsidy Program hotline on 1300 726 488 for more information.

## PIPI WORKSHOP

The Pipi Workshop has been rescheduled to **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Newcastle**. The workshop is to discuss and agree on advice to DPI regarding the interim management arrangements for the NSW commercial pipi fishery. To ensure in-depth discussion, numbers have been restricted to **invited fishers only**. Please advise the PFA Office if you would like to register your interest in attending the meeting.

## PFA RESPONSE TO COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVE REVIEW

Responses were due on Monday to the Commonwealth Marine Reserve Review. The PFA submission highlighted our concerns that the review only looked at existing management arrangements and did not consider actual threats and risks to the marine environment – thereby limiting its effectiveness in addressing real issues. We also highlighted the importance of our fishing grounds and the issue of constantly eroding fishing rights. If a member would like a copy of our submission, please contact our office.

## COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCES

The PFA has lobbied the Department on the need to consider the need for commercial fishing licences being issued for longer periods than just one year. Based on our discussion with them, the department has agreed to review these. We will keep you informed of the progress on this.

## CLARENCE RIVER

PFA has successfully organised a permit for all Region 2 estuary general meshes for ½ hr (i.e. 7.30 am – 8.00 am) travelling time prior to the fishery opening each Monday - provided all meshing net(s) or parts thereof remain on board the boat. Clarence River prawn trawl has been also extended by 15 days and will commence **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016**.

## SHARK FISHERY

PFA has made several submissions to the NSW Government regarding increasing the trip limits for the shark harvests. As you can imagine it is a sensitive subject. The conversations have proved positive so far and we are working with DPI through the issues and concerns. We keep you all informed as this progresses

## PFA COM AGM

**The PFA AGM will be held in Newcastle on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. All members are encouraged to attend from 11am onwards – lunch will be provided.**

Per our constitution, any changes to the Constitution must occur through Special Resolution that is voted on. Notice of a Special Resolution must be given to members at least 21 days prior to our AGM (or Special General Meeting). If you seek discussion regarding changes to the PFA Constitution, please provide advice to me prior to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

*The content of this update is provided for information purposes only. The information on these updates are provided on the basis that all persons accessing the information undertake their own responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of it.*