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*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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*The PFA is a representative body for our members, it has NO power to make or change Government rulings or laws – we lobby and argue but the decisions rest with the Government. The PFA is lobbying the Government on a wide range of issues. The PFA represents its members and we will provide facts and pass on all relevant information once we have received it from Government departments. I will provide information once we have it in writing or confirmed - to do otherwise would be a total disregard for members. I thoroughly understand that many need information or are stressed, but to give out unconfirmed, premature or false information would be harmful to fishermen and their businesses and therefore totally irresponsible.*

*If any members want the PFA to investigate their concerns please specify the issue in writing with any evidence etc., so that we may investigate on your behalf.*

*If you disagree with the direction of the PFA then we welcome your advice. I also highlight that in a couple of months' time we will be calling for nominations to the PFA Committee of Management. All applications for Board members are welcomed. If anyone wishes to apply to volunteer their time and efforts please apply when the positions are available. The CoM is made up of members of the PFA - any member has a right to apply and be voted in by other members.*

## **MOVING FORWARD**

There is a verbal agreement with the Minister to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the PFA. PFA is in the initial process of developing our draft strategic priorities before going out to members for consultation on these priorities. The draft will be sent out by the end of next week for comment from members. This will then be used as the basis for negotiating a MOU with the NSW Liberal and National Coalition Party.

## **EXTENSION TO INVOICE PAYMENTS**

PFA has successfully lobbied for an extension to the invoice payment for a further 60 days. This was due to the additional time required for the ATO to determine the tax ruling. As the ATO determining process is still underway, the PFA requested additional time for members waiting for this specific ATO tax ruling. The DPI has advised:

*To allow further time for issues relating to income tax to be resolved with the Australian Tax Office, DPI is extending the period for payment of the purchase price from 30 days to 90 days from the issue of a Confirmation. **This means buyers will have until 22 September 2017 to pay the purchase price to the RAA.** Interest on late payment of the purchase price will not start to accrue until the 90 day period has ended. This extension of payment terms operates as an amendment to clause 8.4 of the Market Rules.*

## **COMMFISH PROPOSALS**

The PFA has received a copy of the DPI proposals on the management arrangements (based on the 16 DPI Discussion Papers sent out for consultation earlier this year). The proposals were part of the documentation that was discussed at the first CommFish NSW meeting in May. I will provide a summary of these proposals and CommFish recommendations by next week's newsletter. Please contact the PFA if you would us to email you a copy of the documents.

## SENATE INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

The PFA has been asked to present to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the augmentation of the water supply for rural and regional New South Wales next Tuesday in Lismore. The inquiry was established last year on 22 March 2016, to inquire and report on the augmentation of water supply. We will be presenting, with OceanWatch representatives, on the threats to the aquatic environment and therefore fisheries productivity. Issues such as modification of catchments, upstream pollution, modification of tributaries (such as barrages, weirs & flood gates), blackwater and coldwater events etc. If you want us to raise anything specific regarding your concerns (not covered above) please contact us prior to Tuesday.

## IMPORTANT INFO re REFORM KEY DATES

### Adjustment Subsidy Program - Upcoming key dates

**31 August** - transfer forms must be received by DPI if you wish to transfer any of the following shares:

- Estuary general – meshing – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – mud crab trapping – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – trapping – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – category one hauling – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – eel trapping – Regions 1 – 7**
- Ocean hauling – garfish net (hauling) – Regions 1 - 7**
- Ocean trap and line – spanner crab north**
- Ocean trap and line – spanner crab south**

**30 September** - shareholder eligibility for new quota shares determined

**31 October** - snapshot date to determine management fees for share managed fisheries

**1 December** - new share linkage arrangements commence, and applications for fishing business buyout payments and low interest rate loans close

## WHITE SPOT RISK ANALYSIS

In the last month, Biosecurity QLD conducted a risk analysis that determined that there was minimal - no risk in allowing live or green high-value crustaceans (such as lobster, crabs etc) to leave the white spot control areas for sale – this was based on the belief that lobsters and crabs would not be used for bait and therefore get into the waterways.

The NSW Government was asked to lift their ban on accepting this product and involved the PFA in these discussions. The PFA was concerned that there was a risk of live crabs and lobsters entering NSW waterways due to a number of charities that purposely purchase live seafood to release back into the wild (eg Human Society and Buddhist Groups).

We have been working with the NSW Government to mitigate these concerns. Their recent risk analysis indicates a low risk and they have offered to meet with fisher representatives to discuss the risk analysis – if you are a PFA member and would like to meet to discuss the NSW Government risk analysis then please contact me on

## SEAFOOD DIRECTIONS CONFERENCE NSW BURSARIES AVAILABLE

The 2017 Seafood Directions Conference is being held from 27-29 September in Sydney, Australia. The Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) is funding bursaries for those affiliated with the NSW seafood industry to attend the Seafood Directions 2017. The Seafood Directions Organising Committee is therefore calling for nominations to the FRDC Seafood Directions bursaries. The purpose of the bursaries is to provide financial assistance to those within the NSW seafood industry who will utilise the knowledge gained from attending the Conference to make a difference in their sector or the seafood industry as a whole.

Ten x \$1,200 bursaries are available to contribute to the registration and travel costs associated with attending the 2017 Conference in Sydney, at the International Convention Centre. Receipts MUST be provided for all claims. Please contact the PFA for a copy of the nomination form – forms must be returned via email by COB Monday 31 July 2017.

*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.*