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NSW Professional Fishers welcome NSW Government recovery efforts for Clarence prawn fishers and farmers

The NSW Professional Fishers Association (PFA) has welcomed the NSW Government's announced investment of \$21 million plan for the response to and recovery from White Spot on the North Coast's Clarence River.

Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Fishers Association (PFA), Tricia Beatty said "Yesterday's announcement by the Hon. Tara Moriarty of a recovery and response package for our industry recognises the importance of our local industry and the importance to contain the White Spot spread."

"These have been very difficult times for the hard-working men and women on the Clarence River. The industry has been devastated by a series of floods, covid restrictions and now trade restrictions due to the recent White Spot event, with these restrictions to continue for another two years."

The NSW Government has issued a new Control Order restricting movement of green decapod crustaceans from the existing Clarence River Control Zone until up to 9 June 2025. This new order will help manage and minimize the risk of spread or introduction of white spot into the region in the future. It will also support a two-year surveillance testing program to show the area is free of white spot so that market access can be restored under national and international trade requirements.

"The recovery and response package are the result of the DPI Recovery Team working on the ground with affected fishers and producers to put together a workable package that assists fishers, prawn farmers. The package enables some much-needed assistance into the area and recognizes the importance of the sheer devastation on the mental health of fishers and prawn farmers in the area. We welcome this support and will continue to work with the NSW Government and fishers in the area to assist where we can," said Ms Beatty.

**For further media information, please contact:
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PFA providing effective representation on NSW commercial wild harvest fishing to all levels of government and other key stakeholders