

**INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Mr Benjamin Markwell

Date received: 6 December 2016



Registered office:
577 Singleton Road
Laughtondale 2775
Via Wiseman's Ferry
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November 2016

NSW Parliamentary Inquiry
MEMBER PERSONAL
SUBMISSION

Send to:

The Director

Inquiry into commercial Fishing NSW

Upper House Committee

Parliament of NSW 2000

SYDNEY

NSW

From:

Name: Benjamin Markwell

Address: _____

Date: 1 / 12 / 2016



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Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

Introduction:

I am a commercial fisher working in Region: 1

I have been in the Fishing Industry for: 20 Years

I have many concerns for the way the commercial fishery is being managed in NSW and draw your attention to my personal views on the following:

The Impact to my Business Shareholding is as follows:

Fishery ESTUARY MESH Shares held: 125 Shares now required 375

Fishery ESTUARY HAUL Shares held: 125 Shares now required 250

Fishery BEACH HAUL Shares held: 20 Shares now required 80

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

I have had to pre purchase shares because:

Please note the following personal views of the impacts to my business and my personal situation: This reform will cost me lots
of money with no benefit.



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Subsidised Trading:

(circle the answer you support)

- In Your opinion is it fair? Yes / ☒ No
- Has the process been adequately explained? Yes / ☒ No
- Can you access a computer? Yes / ☒ No
- Did the training answer your questions? Yes / ☒ No
- Can you have ease of trading your shares knowing that you will get
enough to continue what you did pre the reform? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you agree that you are trying to buy back your job? ☒ Yes / No
- Have you borrowed money? *not yet* Yes / ☒ No
- How will the debt you have incurred affect your viability?
- It will be better? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you see that you will have more value in your business? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you agree to the need to linking shares with effort or quota? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you perceive that the process has made it impossible for you to
regain shares to reach the level of effort for your business viability? ☒ Yes / No
- Did you support the message to the Minister that inactive share
holders should be offered a buy-out first with a fair offer? Yes / ☒ No
- Did you support the message to the Minister that NO fisher should be
Forced to buy back their jobs to do what they do today? ☒ Yes / No
- Is paying even 5% or 10% for the shares taking you into too much debt? ☒ Yes / No
- Are you able to participate in the share trading? *maybe?* ☒ Yes / No
- Do you support how this reform has been structured? Yes / ☒ No
- In the period 2007 to 2016 have you ever agreed to a Reform in this manner? ... Yes / ☒ No
- Did your Management Advisory Committee agree to a reform in this manner? ... Yes / ☒ No



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(Circle the answer you support)

Did you know about the 'Pyrmont Pact' and the decision by NSW Seafood Industry Advisory Committee? To remove 100% inactive effort and 50% active effort? ... Yes / **No**

Do you support this to be a fair strategy for 2016?Yes / **No**

Do you agree to the method selected by DPI to use the collective Catch History of the individual fisher, divide this with all fishers across the state in a pro rata distribution for some fisheries to develop quota and or effort? Yes / **No**

If you disagreed with the Linkage options and the reform; were you welcome to sit at the working group meetings only 1 meeting with Minister **Yes** / No

Can you clearly make a business decision from the information that has been provided to you for this Business structural adjustment program at this stage? Yes / **No**

Are you aware of any harvest strategy or cost benefit analysis? Yes / **No**

Mock/Preview Share trading:

Did you participate in this? _____ Yes / **No**

Did this resolve your questions? _____ Yes / **No**

Please explain:

I am computer illiterate.
i am still hoping reform gets crushed
in all forms



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Commercial Fishers Personal Views

(Circle the answer you support)

Has DPI given you any information and analysis of the outcome of the trading?

.....Yes / ☒ No

Is it a satisfactory result?

Yes / ☒ No

Please explain:

I haven't traded yet and
am unsure of what I'll need.

Is your current debt prohibiting you from borrowing for your business? ☒ Yes / ☐ No

Please verify did you utilize the grant for financial advisor? Yes / ☒ No

Did the advisor confidently recommend investment? Yes / ☒ No

Do you support the changes for unendorsed crew brought out in July? Yes / ☒ No

Why? increase in effort.

Were you adequately advised of these changes? Yes / ☒ No
your views:

Do you have the changes in writing that give you clear directions on what is
permissible in your region? Yes / ☒ No



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Personal Commercial Fishers views:

(Circle the answer you support)

Do you have issues in your region with the Prawn Draw?

Yes / ☒ No

Please explain

Do you support the further culling of Active commercial fishers from the inshore waters estuaries and lakes in NSW?

Yes / ☒ No

Please explain:

We have dropped in numbers dramatically over last 20 years. We need fishermen in industry to survive.

Do you support the movement of Quota into other regions

Yes / ☒ No

Why?

Increase in effort



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Personal Commercial Fishers views

(circle the answer your support)

Is there now a visible Increase of trap setting in your region that concerns you?

Yes / No.

If you're an Indigenous Fisher:

Have you been informed of your future participation in the reform adequately?

Please explain:

Are you being ostracised by other fishers since the trapping and hauling net and prawn draw changes have occurred Yes / No.

Please explain:

If you are a Line West or Line East Fisher please state which fishery and if you know what is proposed for your fishery..... Yes / No.

Please clarify:



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Personal Commercial Fishers views

(Circle the answer you support)

Given there is approximately 1% of the Australian Population allowed to commercially fish to provide seafood for approximately 78% of the population who do not fish recreationally do you agree that there is a major management issue in providing local seafood to local communities in NSW? Yes / No

Your views:

We need to increase the consumption of Australian wild caught fish.
No evidence to support getting rid of fishermen.

Further Comments.

Remember to attach correspondence you have sent to DPI, or the Minister,