



Hon Bill Byrne MP  
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and  
Minister for Sport and Racing

Reference: CTS 16827/15

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Services  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2015 concerning petition number 2421-15 received by the House on 16 July 2015 about the proposed net fishing bans and the Queensland fishing industry being shut down

The introduction of three net free fishing zones in Cairns, Seaforth (north of Mackay) and the Capricorn Coast are an election commitment by the Palaszczuk Government as well as an international commitment as part of *The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* endorsed by the State and Commonwealth Governments.

The impacts of introducing these zones on the commercial fishing sector are recognised and \$10 million has been set aside in the Government's 2015/16 Budget to include the voluntary buy out of commercial fishing licences to minimise impacts from displaced commercial fishing effort.

It is intended to allow commercial trawling, line fishing and crabbing to continue within these zones and therefore, the general community will still be able to purchase seafood caught in other commercial fisheries and from commercial netting activities outside of these three zones.

I would also like to reinforce that the Government's Sustainable Fishing Policy recognises that there is a role for all fishing sectors in Queensland.

I trust this information is of assistance to petitioners.

Yours sincerely

**The Honourable Bill Byrne MP**  
**Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and**  
**Minister for Sport and Racing**  
**Member for Rockhampton**