



COVID-19 POSITION STATEMENT

COMMERCIAL FISHERS: CLASSIFICATION AS ESSENTIAL SERVICES



WHAT WE BELIEVE & OUR ACTION PLAN

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party, and the broader community, accept that the gradual tightening of restrictions being imposed by Federal and State Governments, and the enforcement thereof, is both necessary and responsible governance to control the spread of COVID-19 in the current state of pandemic.

It is anticipated that further tightening of restrictions may potentially be imposed if the spread of COVID-19 fails to substantially lessen in spite of the current restrictions and measures in place.

If a broader restriction or temporary closure of retail trade and some sectors of industry are imposed in future measures implemented by government, the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that Commercial Fishers and the associated industry are an essential service throughout the pandemic, and vital to providing uninterrupted supply of essential fresh seafood to consumers and maintain seafood values. The Shooters Fishers and Farmers will strenuously seek the classification of Commercial Fishers and associated industry as an essential service.

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that commercial fishers, associated businesses which support the industry, the seafood supply chain and essential infrastructure continue operation, and include but not limited to: operation. We will seek the continued and government supported operation of the farming and agricultural industry which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. All Commercial Fishers
2. All Seafood co-operatives



OUR ACTION PLAN - continued

3. Transport, fuel and logistics
4. Boat ramps, wharves and moorings
5. Boat repair and maintenance
6. Fishing equipment and tackle

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that in the event of any seafood market or seafood co-operative closure as a resulting of COVID-19, that "Class A" licences be immediately issued to commercial fishers who rely upon any closed seafood market or seafood co-operative, to continue their sale and supply of fresh seafood direct to the consumer, until such time as the relevant co-operative or market resumes full-time or pre-existing, pre-closure trading days/hours.

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that all repayments of existing Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) loans should be immediately suspended for a minimum of six months, and we will strenuously seek that the NSW Government implement this cessation or suspension of RAA loan repayments by Commercial Fishers and other individual or entity servicing or subject of any RAA loan.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers party calls on the government to cease planned regulatory reform until the Covid-19 crisis has subsided so as to allow for proper consultation to occur calls for the immediate release of the Barclay report which has been in the possession of the Minister since early February.



OUR ACTION PLAN - continued

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party consider that Commercial Fishers could and will implement stringent measures to comply with other restrictions in the conduct of their business, such as social distancing, and continue their essential seafood supply service.