

6 January 2003

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of Parliament (Acting)  
Parliament House  
Alice and George Streets  
**BRISBANE QLD 4000**

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 8 November 2002 attaching a copy of a petition to the Queensland Legislative Assembly requesting that the waters of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait currently open to commercial fishing remain open.

I have responded directly to the principal petitioner, Mr John Olsen, President of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association and attach a copy of the letter for your information.

Yours sincerely

*Signed Henry Palaszczuk*

Henry Palaszczuk MP  
**Minister for Primary Industries  
and Rural Communities**

6 January 2003

Mr John Olsen  
President  
Queensland Seafood Industry Association Inc.  
PO Box 392  
**CLAYFIELD QLD 4011**

Dear Mr Olsen

I refer to your petition to the Queensland Legislative Assembly requesting that the waters of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait currently open to commercial fishing remain open.

I am firmly of the view that Queensland fisheries resources, including those of the Hervey Bay and Great Sandy Region, must be managed on a sustainable basis for the benefit of the whole community. To this end, and because of the migratory nature of many fish species, the fisheries resources in Queensland tend to be managed on a species or fishery basis and not on a regional basis.

As you are aware commercial fishing in Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait is already subject to a range of management measures contained within the *Fisheries Regulation 1995* and the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*.

It is proposed that some of these measures will be reviewed during the development of a fisheries management plan for inshore finfish species. Whilst additional closures to commercial fishing may be considered during the development of this management plan, I am advised that the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) is not currently proposing to close areas of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait to commercial fishing.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

*Signed Henry Palaszczuk*

Henry Palaszczuk MP  
**Minister for Primary Industries  
and Rural Communities**