



Hon John McVeigh MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Reference: 04119/12

26 JUN 2012

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for petition submission number 1820-11 regarding the commercial harvest of carp from Queensland waters.

European carp is an introduced species which has invaded many inland catchments and some coastal river systems in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Carp is declared as a noxious species in Queensland due to the environmental damage it causes by uprooting vegetation and muddying waterways. Carp is highly reproductive, tolerant of poor diets and environmental conditions and it competes with our native fish species, often displacing them.

In Queensland carp is restricted to sections of the Murray Darling Basin and the Logan River. This means many areas of Queensland are free from this pest, including the Lake Eyre Basin, Gulf of Carpentaria and most coastal rivers.

Fisheries Queensland is committed to preventing the spread of carp throughout Queensland waters through communication and education campaigns alerting the general public to the environmental damage carp can cause in our waterways.

Commercial and recreational harvest of carp is prohibited in Queensland. It is not considered an effective mechanism for control or eradication. This has been demonstrated in New South Wales and Victoria where commercial fishing for the species is allowed, yet carp remain widespread and highly abundant.

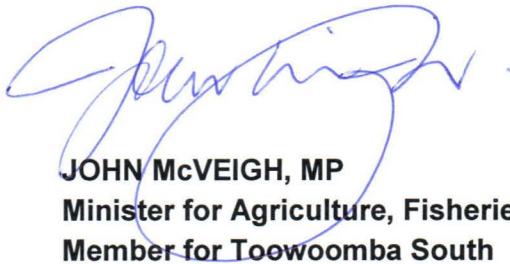
It is strongly believed that a relaxation of the legislation to permit commercial fishing of carp in Queensland would place a value on the species and increase the risk of human assisted spread into currently uninfested areas. This would not result in a significant reduction in population numbers.

The suggestion to remove carp by electro-fishing is noted. However, this is a largely indiscriminate fishing method which poses some risks to non-target fish species as well as other aquatic wildlife.

Given the damaging impacts of carp on the environment and our native fish species and its classification as a noxious species, the current legislation will not be amended.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Aimee Moore of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on telephone 07 3225 1888 or email aimee.moore@daff.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



JOHN McVEIGH, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Member for Toowoomba South