



Hon John McVeigh MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Reference: 04117/12

26 JUN 2012

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for petition submission number 1843-11 regarding professional fishing access to the Moreton Bay Marine Park after the new zoning plan was introduced in 2009.

The role of commercial fishers in our community is vital in terms of access to local seafood. Without commercial fishers many people who do not fish themselves would not be able to access such a variety of our high quality and fresh local seafood product.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of Fisheries Queensland within the primary industries sector and it is for this reason that Fisheries Queensland has been positioned within the new stand alone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). Regular consultation between Fisheries Queensland and key stakeholder representatives, including commercial fishers, supports the development and profitability of Queensland's commercial fishing industry.

Fisheries Queensland provides advice on fisheries issues when new marine park arrangements are being negotiated. However, the establishment and management of Queensland's marine parks, including the Moreton Bay Marine Park, is the responsibility of the Honourable Steven Dickson MP, Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

I am advised that an extensive five year monitoring program commenced prior to the 2009 re-zoning of the Moreton Bay Marine Park to investigate the full range of ecological, economic and social outcomes of the re-zoning. Results of this program will be used to assist the Government with future management of marine parks including reviews of zoning arrangements. A recent progress report on this program was released in February 2012. Further information and copies of recent reports on the monitoring program can be found at the following website: www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Phil Gaffney, Senior Fisheries Management Officer, DAFF, on telephone 07 3239 0436 or email phillip.gaffney@daff.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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