



Hon John McVeigh MP  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Reference: 07196/12

10 OCT 2012

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 13 September 2012 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1969-12 lodged in the Queensland legislative Assembly, concerning the fishing of carp in Queensland waters.

European carp have invaded most inland catchments and some coastal river systems in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria. In Queensland the species is restricted to sections of the Murray Darling Basin and the Logan River. Large and environmentally sensitive sections of Queensland including the entire Lake Eyre Basin, the Gulf of Carpentaria and coastal rivers with the exception of the Logan River are currently free of carp.

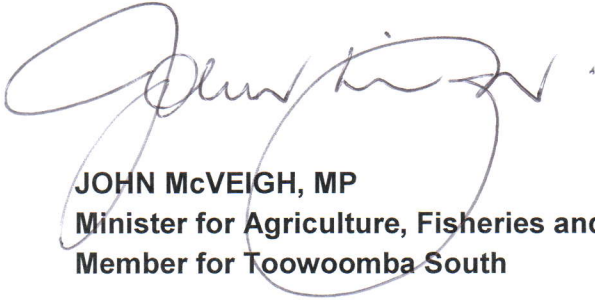
Commercial and recreational harvest of carp is not permitted in Queensland. This is to ensure anglers do not start to place a value on carp as they have in other countries.

The Queensland Government is committed to stopping the spread of carp throughout Queensland waters. Permitting commercial or recreational harvest of carp in Queensland will not help achieve this outcome as there is likely to be a small proportion of the fishing community who will see this as an opportunity to introduce carp to other waterways. This would accelerate the spread of carp into other river systems.

History has shown that the manual harvest of carp is not an effective mechanism for control or eradication of the species. Carp remain widespread and highly abundant in NSW and Victoria despite commercial and recreational harvest for many years. While I accept the proposition that electrofishing is an alternative, it is a largely indiscriminate fishing method which possesses risks to non-target fish species as well as other aquatic wildlife. For that reason, its wide spread use as an eradication tool for river systems has not been supported.

If you require any further information, please contact Dr Peter Kind, Manager, Assessment and Habitat, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, on telephone 07 3224 2185 or email [peter.kind@daff.qld.gov.au](mailto:peter.kind@daff.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McVeigh', is written over the typed name and title below.

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