

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition to the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 15 June 2004 from the residents of Deception Bay area requesting a total commercial net fishing closure in Deception Bay.

I have recently responded to the Principal Petitioner on this issue and enclose a copy of that response for your information.

Yours sincerely

Henry Palaszczuk MP
**Minister for Primary Industries
and Fisheries**

Enc

Mr Lindsay Bishop
19 Bowden Street
DECEPTION BAY QLD 4508

Dear Mr Bishop

I refer to your petition to the Queensland Legislative Assembly concerning commercial net fishing in Deception Bay.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) has implemented a Fisheries Resource Allocation Policy (Allocation Policy) that is designed to provide guidance on the complex range of ecological, economic, social and other considerations related to resource allocation. The development of the Allocation Policy does not imply a commitment to closing any specific area to commercial fishing.

Inshore finfish fisheries such as those occurring in Deception Bay will be the subject of new management arrangements in the near future with the first stage of the process being the development and release of a Proposed Management Arrangements (PMA) document for the inshore finfish fishery. Through that process it is likely that allocation issues will arise and it is in this context that the Allocation Policy may be applied.

It is expected that a PMA document will be released for public comment later this year. This document will discuss various fisheries management issues and will suggest approaches to address them. Public comments received in response to the PMA document will be considered when developing a draft Management Plan. I would encourage you and the other petitioners to provide a response on the proposals at that time.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Mark Lightowler of DPI&F on (07) 3225 1897.

Yours sincerely

Henry Palaszczuk MP
**Minister for Primary Industries
and Fisheries**