

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition to the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 26 May 2005 from residents of the Moreton Bay region requesting a prohibition on commercial fishing in Deception Bay and the adjacent ocean beach of Bribie Island, as far as Woorim.

I have recently responded to the Principal Petitioner and enclose a copy of my response for your information.

Yours sincerely

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

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Mr Maurie Doyle
4 Tamalia Court
BONGAREE QLD 4507

Dear Mr Doyle

I refer to a petition received by the Clerk of the Parliament seeking a prohibition on commercial fishing in Deception Bay and the adjacent ocean beach of Bribie Island, as far as Woorim. As this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities, I am responding to you as the principal petitioner.

Significant fisheries management arrangements have been introduced over the last five years, which have resulted in substantial changes to regulations for both recreational and commercial fishers. These fisheries management changes have been compounded by the introduction of Marine Protected Areas by both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments.

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier and Minister for Trade and I have agreed that this year will be a period of consolidation in fisheries management. This period marks an opportunity for all fisheries stakeholders to grow accustomed to fisheries management arrangements in a stable environment and to develop a shared commitment to the future management needs of our fisheries. I note that this concept has been supported by both the Queensland Seafood Industry Association Inc. and Sunfish Queensland Inc.

I have noted the concerns raised in your petition and have undertaken to consider the matter further at the conclusion of the consolidation period outlined above.

As I am sure you would understand, the allocation of fisheries resources between competing users is one of the most difficult tasks facing fisheries managers as it requires a balance between the recreational enjoyment and leisure of one group and the economic activity of another. The complexities in comparing these values, as well as the wider community benefits of each sector are extremely onerous.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries has developed a "Fisheries Resource Allocation Policy" as a tool to assist in the consideration of proposals such as that advocated in your petition. I have enclosed a copy of the policy for your information and I advise that further consideration of your proposal will occur pursuant to the policy when fisheries management arrangements are next reviewed.

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

Yours sincerely

(Sgd Henry Palaszczuk)

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

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