



The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

OM18/1242

The Hon Robert Brown MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown *Robert*

I am writing to update the Committee on the Independent Allocation Panel (IAP) process. As the Committee is aware, the IAP has been tasked with providing the NSW Government advice on the remaining species, species groups or effort due to move to quota under the Business Adjustment Program (BAP).

I received the final reports from the IAP on the 4 June 2018 and have been giving them careful consideration however; to make sure that I am making the best decision for the industry I have asked the Department of Primary Industry to seek further clarification from the IAP on a number of issues. I have been advised this may take a little time, due to panel members' existing commitments.

I remain committed to releasing the final reports, as well as the Government's response and my decision on the approach we will take to share allocation, as soon as possible after I receive this further advice. This will certainly be no later than September.

In addition, I have directed the Secretary of the Department of Industry to make Total Allowable Catch fishing determinations for the first fishing period. Like the independent Total Allowable Fishing Committee, the Secretary will make these determinations having regard to scientific assessments, but will be able to make them sooner. We can expect to know the Total Allowable Catch determinations for the new quota species by September at the latest.

Although I have not yet made any decision on the share allocation formulae, I have asked the Department of Primary Industries to start preparing the formulae so that we will be ready to issue the new quota shares soon after the release of the final IAP reports and Government response. I expect the new quota shares will be issued by November at the latest.

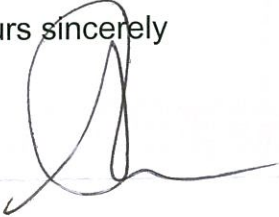
To allow more time for industry adjustment, I have decided to commence quota management for the new species in 2019, rather than December this year. For the ocean fisheries (Ocean Trap and Line – Line East, Ocean Hauling – Purse Seine, Ocean Trawl – Inshore and Offshore Prawn and Fish Trawl North), quota management will start in May 2019 to align with the Commonwealth quota period. For Estuary

General – Hand Gathering, quota management will start in July 2019 to align with existing quota periods in other Estuary General share classes.

I would like to thank the Committee for their continued interest in the commercial fishing reforms. Their contribution has been valuable and assisted the NSW Government in making these reforms a success.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Miranda Pade, Senior Policy Advisor, in my office on (02) 8574 7167.

Yours sincerely



28 JUN 2018

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