

**Submission  
No 156**

**INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH  
WALES**

**Name:** Mr Jason Hughes

**Date received:** 9 December 2016

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Jason Hughes

To the Committee,

Please find the following submission in regards to the Commercial Fishing Industry NSW, and my comments in line with the terms of reference set out.

I am a second generation fisher in Region 2 (Clarence River), and I purchased my business in 2014, fully aware of the reform process underway and risks involved with it. However, I was optimistic that some positive resolutions would be reached and we could find ourselves in a position of some certainty.

It has become clear over the last 18 months that this is not the case, due to the lack of clear communication from the minister and the department.

In particular, the preview share trading market. Designed to give fishers a clear idea of how the real thing will work has given us no real answers other than how they will calculate their figures. This has added no certainty to my business, and I believe has been operated in contradiction to what information was available via the DPI website. I still have no idea what shares will cost.

I have a young family and loans to service and to have to spend any more money on shares will place me further into financial pressure. I do not even know if these shares will be available?

I am concerned at any loss of fisherman from my area and particularly the Clarence River Fishermans Cooperative as it is my sole trading market. I am worried that a reduction in numbers will increase costs to be covered by the membership.

Overall, I am completely dissatisfied at the whole restructure process. It appears that the minister and the department have taken very little on board from industry. The lack of communication over time has made me feel very

much in the dark. Sporadic emails that give little to no real information does not help me make any informed business decisions. I cannot make any certain decisions for my business with the information that I have.

Regards

Jason Hughes