



Chair's summary report to Minister (Meeting 23)

24 June 2022

Dear Minister

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with CommFish members on the 19 May 2022. Whilst I was not able to be in attendance personally, I joined members via teleconference at our morning meeting where I was advised that discussions went well and that those in attendance appreciated you taking the time to listen to the issues facing the commercial fishing sector.

I have also been given feedback that it was refreshing to see you stimulated conversation on the topics at hand to gain further insight on the support needed for the commercial fishing industry to move forward on improving investment, growth, access, productivity, and welfare.

Whilst the CommFish meeting was brief members were provided with updates on the progression of several matters that they have been involved in, including the Business Efficiency Program and the staged approach for implementation.

Council was pleased to hear that the Department have been successful in obtaining a two million dollar grant from the Commonwealth as part of the Commonwealth vessel monitoring system (VMS) project.

A presentation was also provided to members on the framework for Aboriginal cultural fishing in harvest strategies. Members indicated the importance to further engage on the subject and share their knowledge and expertise when required.

The main topic of discussion was the Commercial Fishing Strategy. Members acknowledged that you have engaged them to provide a strategic roadmap for the industry to drive productivity, reduce regulatory burden, promote innovation, improve community support and strengthen the industry as a whole. Whilst the logistics have not been finalised Council looks forward in engaging with the broader industry to gain feedback on the preparation of the strategy and will provide a draft to stimulate conversation.

A date for the next CommFish meeting is yet to be determined with the likelihood of it being in late August 2022.

Please contact me if you require further elaboration on any of the items discussed at this meeting.

Regards

Stuart Richey AM, Chairman
CommFish NSW