

Our ref: CTS 25033/25
Your ref: 4246-25

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of The Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
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Dear Mr Laurie,

Thank you for your email of 20 November 2025 regarding the petition as tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 20 November 2025 (4246-25) - *Change Queensland Crabbing Regulations (allow the take of female crabs)*.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to ensuring fisheries regulations are evidence-based and underpinned by the best available science. As noted, the prohibition on the take of female mud crabs is one of the oldest continuous fishing rules in Queensland and has ensured that Queensland's mud crab population remains sustainable.

The recently completed Fisheries Research Development Corporation Mud Crab Report (FRDC 2019-062) addressed information needs and research priorities for the mud crab component of the Queensland Crab Fishery. The Report highlights that older, large female mud crabs are continuing to breed and contribute to the stock. Further, the current arrangements, including the protection of females, minimum legal size of male crabs and in possession limits, ensure that fishing is a low risk to the sustainability of the stock. A summary of the Report is available at <https://www.frdc.com.au/project/2019-062>.

Fisheries Queensland will continue to engage with stakeholders through the Crab Fishery Working Group to discuss future management arrangements for the fishery.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely



TONY PERRETT MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Member for Gympie