



The Hon Mark Furner MP  
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Our ref: CTS 10216/19

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26 APR 2019

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Services  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 1 April 2019 concerning petition number 3027-18, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly, about the use of opera house traps.

I note the petitioners' concerns about the use of opera house traps in Queensland.

In 2015, the Palaszczuk Government took action to reduce the impact of yabby traps on bycatch species including platypus, turtles and water rats. The *Fisheries Regulation 2008* was amended following a review of freshwater fishing management arrangements in Queensland. It included recommendations from a stakeholder working group comprised of recreational fishers, environment group representatives and Fisheries Queensland officers.

From the feedback, the use of funnel traps including opera house traps, round traps and concertina traps, was restricted by trap entrance and geographical use in Queensland. Details of the requirements are available on the Government's website at: [www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/rules/equipment](http://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/rules/equipment).

The use of solid floats with a minimum dimension of 15cm was also introduced at the same time as the funnel trap restrictions to reduce the impact of ghost fishing by lost and abandoned funnel traps. Open top pyramid traps were also introduced as an option for recreational fishers to use in all freshwaters of Queensland.

Funnel traps must have no more than four entrances each made of rigid material and not exceeding five centimetres in all dimensions for eastern non-tidal waters. In all other waters, entrances must not exceed 10cm in all dimensions. Eastern non-tidal waters are defined as waters east of a line formed by the Great Dividing Range and the Gore Highway to its intersection with the New South Wales border but excluding 44 impoundments in this area.

These changes had the effect of reducing impacts from recreational yabby fishing on bycatch species.

The Palaszczuk Government has outlined proposals in the Directions Paper on Fisheries Reforms released earlier this year to minimise bycatch and protected species interaction in the Queensland Crab and East Coast Inshore fisheries. We remain committed to reviewing management arrangements in Queensland to improve recreational fishing and reduce the impacts to the environment as new information becomes available.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Furner'.

**MARK FURNER MP**

**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries**