



**Hon Craig Wallace MP**  
Member for Thuringowa



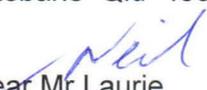
**Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries  
and Marine Infrastructure**

Our ref: 10674/11

Your ref:

15 DEC 2011

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

  
Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for petition submission numbers 1840-11 and 1803-11 regarding the conflict between recreational and commercial fishers in Trinity Bay and the proposal to close Trinity Bay to commercial fishing.

The level of interest in the petition suggests that further investigation needs to be undertaken to determine if a change to current management arrangements is necessary. Due to the complex nature of the matter, several issues will need to be considered and broader consultation undertaken before a final decision can be made.

At this time there are six commercial fishing authorities in Trinity Bay. These authorities cannot be transferred and no new licences can be issued. The existing authorities will expire when the holder stops fishing (e.g. through retirement). This arrangement has been in place since 1998 when nine authorities were managed in this way, indicating that this management arrangement is achieving the desired result of removing commercial fishing from the area.

A decision to prohibit all commercial fishing in Trinity Bay would trigger compensation under the *Fisheries Act 1994* for impacted fishers and potentially result in increased competition and conflict amongst commercial and recreational fishers. This would be due to the commercial fishers moving into other areas nearby.

Other matters requiring consideration are the supply of fresh local fish to the wider Cairns community and the jobs related to seafood capture, processing and wholesale that could be lost by a decision to remove commercial fishing.

I can provide my assurance that this Government will continue to seek a fair and reasonable resolution to the issues that have formed the basis of the petition.

Yours sincerely

**Craig Wallace MP**  
**Minister for Main Roads,**  
**Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure**

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