



Hon Leanne Donaldson MP  
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 15816/16

6 JUL 2016

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2016 concerning petition numbers 2565-16 and 2604-16 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 17 June 2016 about size and possession limits for molluscs, namely pipis, in Queensland.

The Queensland Government is conscious that molluscs, such as pipis, can be easily accessed and harvested. Laws such as the possession limit of 50 bivalve molluscs and gastropods are intended to protect these stocks and share them fairly. The possession limit includes pipis, mud whelks and cockles but excludes all oysters and is considered appropriate at this time.

These resources are highly sought after by different sections of our community for different reasons. Consequently, officers from the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol regularly engage in education and enforcement activities including targeting popular harvesting locations to ensure compliance with possession limits.

While there are occasional calls for changes to existing possession and size limits for various species, any consideration of this nature needs to take into account the many factors. These include not only issues about fair access to the resource but also the latest scientific and other information relating to the species. Given the known information about the species in question it is not envisaged that the current possession arrangements will be altered in the immediate future. Existing possession and size limits for a range of species may need to be scrutinised in the future as more information comes to hand and the matter could be reconsidered at that time.

Members of the public are reminded that there is a 24-hour Fishwatch hotline, 1800 017 116 (toll free within Queensland) and I would encourage anyone to report any suspect or unlawful fishing activity.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact my office on telephone 07 3719 7560.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Donaldson', written in a cursive style.

**The Honourable Leanne Donaldson MP  
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries  
Member for Bundaberg**