



Office 14, 133 Kensington Road, West Melbourne, VICTORIA 3003
T: 03 9687 0673 F: 03 9687 0543 E: admin@siv.com.au

11 June 2020

The Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Fishing and Boating
1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Via: jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for contributing your time on the 3rd June 2020 in meeting with Johnathon Davey and myself. I am positive about the opportunities that SIV has to work with the VFA and the Victorian Government to sustain and grow commercial outcomes for the Victorian seafood and aquaculture industry, and the consequent contribution of the industry to the Victorian economy.

The SIV Board notes that 12 Corner Inlet Fishers have approached you for support to codification of the Voluntary Code of Practice that has been in operation for nearly 3 decades.

As committed to you during the meeting, I am writing to you to provide the Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) Board's position on the matter of management arrangements for the Corner Inlet Fishery.

To support the decision-making process for the SIV Board, we have consulted with the 18 Corner Inlet Licence Holders – as per our Statement of Purposes, SIV has considered, and taken action on, issues of interest and concern to the Victorian seafood industry.

The outcome of that consultation process was majority support for codifying the Voluntary Code of Practice, and concerns were raised around the length of time mesh nets remained in the water.

The SIV Board met on 10th June 2020 and reached a decision to support:

- Seine shots to be limited to 2 by any Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence Holder within any 24-hour window.

- In-principle support for mesh nets not being used in a way that is detrimental to public perception of sustainability of the Corner Inlet Fishery – in particular restriction on the soak time of mesh nets.
- Medium-term development of a Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan that is developed in consultation with the Fishers and SIV.

SIV is required under its Statement of Purposes to promote certainty of access to seafood resource, promote the principles of ecological sustainable development, and support certainty/fairness of resource allocation. Specifically, our purposes state that we are required to:

- advocate for retention of Corner Inlet as a fishery
- support sustainable fishing practices that, by default,
- enable certainty of access to seafood resource for commercial fishers.

Therefore, the SIV Board consider it imperative that the sustainability and long-term management of the Corner Inlet fishery be underpinned by evidence-based decision making, which is best supported by the development of a Fishery Management plan. We note this is a medium term outcome, and that it will support future Commonwealth export approval requirements.

Minister, we thank you for this opportunity to provide you directly with the SIV Board's position. SIV will communicate our position to the Corner Inlet Fishers as well. We look forward to continuing to advocate for a long-term sustainable and viable Corner Inlet Fishery and would appreciate your consideration and support for the SIV Board's recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters towards securing a sustainable fishery in Corner Inlet and I would be happy to discuss this with you at any time. I also look forward further discussion on matters of industry collaboration, including our Seafood Supply Chain project and the impact of COVID-19, and other strategic opportunities

Yours sincerely



Joanne Butterworth-Gray
SIV Independent Chair