



NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE INCORPORATED

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Federal Election 2016 A guide to the seafood industry

In the lead up to the Federal election to be held on 2 July 2016, the National Seafood Industry Alliance (NSIA) is seeking confirmation of the Federal political parties' policies in regards to the seafood industry in Australia.

The NSIA was established in 2009 to provide representation of our industries at the Federal level on the following key priorities:

- Sustainability;
- Resource access (including the Commonwealth Government's marine planning processes);
- Research, development and extension;
- Promoting industry; and
- Federal cost imposts.

NSIA is seeking Federal political parties to make commitments that in government they will:

- Develop a dedicated seafood industry policy;
- Secure resource access and clearly defined access rights;
- Take action to restore public faith in fisheries management;
- Actively assist in the development of the wild-catch and aquaculture sectors so they remain sustainable, productive and profitable;
- Improve the legislative and policy environment to encourage development of aquaculture;
- Reduce the regulatory complexity and cost imposts;
- Review of the fisheries adjustment assistance package, as part of the Commonwealth marine reserves review;
- Support for, and recognition of a National peak body which provides a liaison function between the Government agencies and the Industry;
- Continue to provide suitable funding for and maintain the location of the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation;
- Remove the current loophole in Country of Origin labelling by extending country of origin laws for seafood to the food service sector;
- Maintain the fuel levy rebate;
- Improve Commonwealth funding support for programs and organisations that provide natural resource management and extension services for sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices;

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- Actively assist in providing improved social and economic data about the seafood industry throughout the supply chain to determine the true economic value of the seafood industry;
- Provide a flexible approach to industrial relations in the wild-catch and aquaculture industries; and
- Actively, in conjunction with the industry, further develop the Trans – Pacific Partnership export trade agreement.

To assist with the upcoming election, a comparison of commitments has been tabled for your convenience. Please note this is merely a guide, and the responses from the Australian parties have been interpreted for your benefit. For further information and the full NSIA 2016 Federal Election Policy Priorities and Federal Parties’ responses go to www.seafoodforaustralia.com.au

Table 1: A response to the NSIA 2016 Federal Election Policy Priorities, with a comparison of Federal political parties’ commitments if elected to government

	 LIBERAL THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia	 Labor	 THE GREENS
Support for developing a dedicated seafood industry policy	✓	?	✓
Secure resource access and clearly defined access rights	✓	✓	✓
Take action to restore public faith in fisheries management	?	?	?
Actively develop the wild-catch and aquaculture sectors	?	✓	?
Improve the legislative and policy environment to encourage development of aquaculture	?	?	?
Reduce the regulatory complexity and cost imposts	✓	✓	✗
Review the fisheries adjustment package, as part of the Commonwealth marine reserves review	?	?	?
Support for, and recognition of a National peak body which provides a liaison function between the Government agencies and the Industry	✓	?	?
Maintain funding for the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation at no less than the present level	✓	✓	?
Remove the current loophole in Country of Origin labelling by extending country of origin laws for seafood to the food service sector	✓	✓	✓
Maintain the fuel levy rebate	✓	✓	✓
Improve Commonwealth funding support for programs and organisations that provide natural resource management and extension services for sustainable fishing practices	?	?	?
Provide improved economic data about the commercial fishing industry	?	?	?
Provide a flexible approach to industrial relations in the wild catch and aquaculture industries	?	?	?
Actively, in conjunction with the industry, further develop the Trans-Pacific Partnership export trade agreement	✓	✓	✗



Clearly addressed



Did not address

?

Position is unclear

NOTE: The Greens have a strong position for a moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawling in Australian waters and reduction in by-catch in all trawl fisheries, and a ban of all large factory-freezer vessels in the small pelagic fisheries.