



## National Campaign Headquarters

### Commonwealth Fisheries Association

#### *Secure Access*

The Rudd Labor Government remains committed to the development of marine reserves through the marine bioregional planning process to support the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's marine environment. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is the lead agency on marine bioregional planning issues and determines the gear types that are permitted within each zone of the marine reserves. The Federal Labor Government is finalising a fisheries adjustment assistance package in the vicinity of \$100 million to ensure that all commercial fishers that are impacted by the Commonwealth marine reserves will receive appropriate adjustment assistance.

Federal Labor remains committed to fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Australia's waters. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority maintains a robust monitoring, control and surveillance program against illegal activity, followed by prosecutions if required. Federal Labor believes the current allocation of resources is achieving the desired outcome of effective deterrence against illegal foreign fishing.

The high standard of Commonwealth-managed fisheries means they are well placed to meet the requirements of rigorous independent environmental standards. Decisions about third-party environmental certification schemes are a matter for businesses depending on their particular needs and market expectations for seafood. The 2011 Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy found that it could not justify extending country of origin labelling and the associated compliance burden to seafood sold in the food service sector, such as restaurants and cafes. The Federal Labor Government continues to support this finding.

#### *Less Regulation*

Federal Labor has, and will continue, to support having a dedicated Minister for Fisheries in the Cabinet. The current arrangement ensures that fisheries matters are represented in Cabinet by a senior Minister – currently the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Minister is also ably supported in the portfolio by the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Sid Sidebottom MP.

The Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012 will replace 50 pieces of legislation in the seven state jurisdictions and the Northern Territory, delivering one law and a consistent approach to national standards for all commercial vessels in

Australia. Australian Maritime Safety Authority will work cooperatively with the seven state and Northern Territory maritime regulators to deliver the national system for domestic commercial vessel safety.

The Federal Labor Government has no plans to change the Fuel Tax Credit scheme. Additionally, commercial fishing activities remain exempt from any carbon charge. This includes:

- Taking, catching, capturing of fish.
- Processing fish on board vessels, fish farming.
- Constructing ponds and tanks or other structures to contain fish to be farmed, as long as this is done by the fish farmer or a contractor or subcontractor to the farmer.
- Pearling.
- Operating a dedicated mother vessel in connection with eligible fishing operations.
- Sailing a vessel to or from a port for the purpose of refitting or repairing the vessel or its equipment
- Undertaking trials connected with the repair or refit.

The Rudd Labor Government's move to terminate the carbon tax and move to an emissions trading scheme from next year will reduce costs for the fisheries industry. Starting emissions trading on 1 July 2014 will reduce the equivalent carbon price on refrigerants. Based on current estimates of a carbon price of around \$6 in 2014-15, the levy component of the cost to completely re-gas refrigerant systems would reduce by around 75 per cent, including:

- From around \$4.80 to around \$1.10 for a domestic refrigerator.
- From around \$19.80 to around \$4.60 for a passenger vehicle.
- From around \$264 to \$61 for a takeaway store refrigerator.

### *A competitive industry*

The Federal Labor Government introduced the Fishing Industry Labour Agreement in 2011 to enable the fishing industry to engage semi-skilled overseas labour, for example deck hands and fishing hands. Currently there are eight Fishing Industry Labour Agreements in place, a further five have recently been approved by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and a further two are under negotiation. The trial of the Seasonal Worker Program that enables the Australian horticulture industry to employ workers from eight selected Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste is scheduled to run for another two years. Consideration of extending these arrangements to other sectors would occur after the trial has been assessed.

Federal Labor supports the Australian seafood industry establishing appropriate levy mechanisms to facilitate long-term industry funding for marketing. Amendments to the Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989 were introduced in the

2013 winter sitting of Parliament. Regrettably while the amendment was passed through the House of Representatives, the Bill was not able to be considered by the Senate.

Free trade agreements have the potential to deliver positive outcomes for Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries. The Rudd Labor Government's aim is to secure tariff reductions and improved market access that will directly benefit these industries and improve the competitiveness of Australian traded products. Our free trade agreements, and those we are negotiating, are helping Australian seafood exporters compete on equal terms, access new markets and expand trade in existing markets.

Authorised and printed by G.Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton ACT 2604

Australian Labor Party  
PO Box 6222 KINGSTON ACT 2604  
T: 1800 10 31 31 E: [campaign13@chq.alp.org.au](mailto:campaign13@chq.alp.org.au)  
| [www.alp.org.au](http://www.alp.org.au)