

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Promoting Sustainable Fishing



6 January 2021

The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Impacts of rural irrigators' activities on fish in waterways

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 November 2020 in response to our letter regarding the impacts of rural irrigators' activities on fish in waterways. I have attached our original letter and your response for your convenience.

The RFA feels that the most significant issue we raised has been overlooked, and that you have not provided a response to this question.

We wrote "the RFA feels that the most significant issue that is overlooked is how this is allowed to happen under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, *Water NSW Act 2014*, *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Local Land Services Act 2013*".

The RFA respectfully asked you "as a Minister who oversees the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, can you explain how is it possible that we allow fish and other aquatic animals to be killed as part of irrigation water extraction when the various legislations listed above contain objectives that include the protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment and protection of fish and other aquatic animals?"

We highlighted that "even the extraction and storage of water must contravene the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* by allowing:

- The taking of prohibited size fish,
- The trafficking of fish
- The possession of fish illegally taken
- Taking fish without a licence
- Interfering with habitat protection plans
- Offering no protection to spawning fish
- Damage to critical habitats
- Harming threatened species
- The possession of threatened species."

Once again, the RFA respectfully asks you for a response. I do note that you have advised the RFA to contact Dr Craig Boys if the RFA had any more questions, however we feel that Dr Boys is not in a position to speak on your behalf on such a significant issue about actions under legislation.

Yours faithfully



Stan Konstantaras
President
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW