



The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

OM20/3818

Mr Stan Konstantaras
President
Recreational Fishing Alliance
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Dear Mr Konstantaras

Thank you for your letter of 2 June 2020 regarding a recent approval for Aboriginal cultural fishing on the NSW South Coast, I appreciate the reasons that have prompted you to write.

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* recognises the spiritual, social and customary significance of fisheries resources to Aboriginal people and protects and promotes the continuation of Aboriginal cultural fishing. Similarly, the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* and associated marine park regulations safeguard Aboriginal cultural values and fishing.

In recognition of this, permits are applied for under section 37(1)(d) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and pursuant to clauses 1.11 and 1.16 of the Marine Estate Management (Management Rules) Regulation 1999, where fishing rules do not adequately allow for cultural fishing. A permit is only issued after an assessment considers any possible impacts of the activity.

As you are aware, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recently issued a permit for members of the Narooma Aboriginal Community to use a meshing net, in line with strict conditions, to supply fresh fish to Aboriginal elders in the local community.

Fishing under this permit is only authorised for Wagonga Inlet and Mummaga Lake within the Batemans Marine Park, with a maximum take of four boxes of mixed finfish per week, however the permit does not allow for the fish to be sold.

The permit is valid for 12 months, under which DPI Fisheries Officers must be advised before any fishing occurs under the permit and requires that the amount of catch taken must be reported. A meshing net up to 200 metres in length is allowed, and conditions for the use of the net are the same as those that apply under the Fisheries Management (Estuary General Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006.

With regard community consultation, advice was sought from the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council on the proposed community netting activity prior to the permit being issued.

I trust this information is of assistance, however if you would like to discuss the matter further, I have asked Mr Mika Malkki, Director Fisheries Operations, to be available to answer any questions you may have. Mr Malkki can be contacted on (02) 9741 4821.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Adam Marshall
MINISTER

27 JUL 2020