



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

The Hon Dr John McVeigh MLA
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 46,
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the reassessment of the Queensland Eel Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In February 2014, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry provided an application to the Department of the Environment seeking continued export approval for the Queensland Eel Fishery.

The application has been assessed for the purposes of the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The assessment took into account measures that have been developed by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in response to the recommendations made in the 2009 assessment of the fishery.

I am pleased to advise that the assessment is now complete. The new assessment report will be available on the Department of the Environment's website at:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/node/17359>.

I consider that the Queensland Eel Fishery operates in line with the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*. Given the management arrangements and precautionary measures for the fishery including limited number of authorities, spatial closures, gear restrictions and size limits, I have decided to amend the list of exempt native specimens to allow export of product from the Queensland Eel Fishery for a period of five years, until 17 April 2019.

While there are some environmental risks associated with the Queensland Eel Fishery, I believe that the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has in place measures to address these issues. Officers from the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and this department have discussed and agreed to four recommendations focussing on ensuring the continuation of good management practices. These recommendations can be found at **Attachment 1**.

I would like to thank you for the constructive way in which your officials have approached this assessment.

Yours sincerely

[Signed]

Paul Murphy
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment
17 April 2014

**Recommendations to the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Eel Fishery, April 2014**

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime under the Queensland *Fisheries Act 1994* and the Queensland Fisheries Regulation 2008.
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry(DAFF) to inform the Department of the Environment (the Department) of any intended material changes to the Queensland Eel Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. The Queensland DAFF to produce and present reports to the Department annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. The Queensland DAFF to continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions to pursue consistent and complementary research needs and management arrangements for target species.