



# Australian Government

## Department of the Environment and Energy

Mr John Whittington  
Secretary  
Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries,  
Parks, Water and Environment  
GPO Box 44  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Mr Whittington

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

In July 2019, the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water, and Environment provided an application to the Department of the Environment seeking continued export approval for the Tasmanian Giant Crab fishery under the EPBC Act.

The application has been assessed and I have amended the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) to allow export of product from the Fishery until 10 January 2025.

The amendment to the LENS includes three conditions and three recommendations that were agreed by officials from both departments as issues to be addressed before the next assessment of the fishery. In this 2019 assessment report, some of these conditions and recommendations focus on continuing to work on the improvement of the data collection system and stock assessment methods in the fishery, as well as ensuring the general continuation of good management practices in the fishery and with other fishing jurisdictions. The conditions and recommendations can be found at **Attachment 1**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dane Roberts'.

Dane Roberts  
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

10 January 2020

**Conditions and recommendations to the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment on the ecologically sustainable management of the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery, January 2020**

1. Operation of the Tasmanian Giant Crab Fishery (TGCF) will be carried out in accordance with management regime in force under the Tasmanian *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* and the *Fishery (Giant Crab) Rules 2013*.
2. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) to inform the Department of the Environment and Energy (the Department) of any intended material changes to the fishery's management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. DPIPWE 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. DPIPWE to:
  - a) continue working with fishers to improve data collection in the fishery and to keep contributing to the development and implementation of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) enhanced data collection project for the giant crab in south east Australia, and
  - b) provide the Department with regular updates on the progress of:
    - data collection with fishers;
    - the development and outcomes from the cross-jurisdictional project via annual reporting (as per Condition 3).
5. DPIPWE to:
  - a) provide the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) report on the analysis of the fishery catch rate data for the 2018-19 quota year to the Department, and to take the appropriate management response measures to reported trends of giant crab rates accordingly to IMAS assessment report. DPIPWE to provide the scientific fishery assessment report for the TGCF every couple of years, and
  - b) assess alternative assessment methods to determine biomass estimates to assist scientific research to develop a new giant crab stock assessment model that will be used to draft and finalise a harvest strategy for the TGCF.
6. DPIPWE to continue collaborative work with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in relation to:
  - a) developing coordinated management responses to the potential impact of trawl activities on the TGCF;
  - b) investigating further waters adjacent to Tasmania to progress with the fisheries interaction issue.