



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Ref: 002229276

The Hon Dave Kelly MLA
WA Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science
8th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, in relation to ongoing environmental approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for the Western Australian West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.

I consider that the fishery operates in line with the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*. I am pleased to advise that export approval for the fishery will be extended for seven years, until 30 May 2025. The fishery was previously subject to a three-year approval and conditions in response to an increase in whale entanglements that was observed in 2012-14. Following development and implementation of effective mitigation measures, entanglements have now decreased back to pre-2011 levels. I commend the cooperative work of your officials and fishing industry to achieve this excellent outcome and have consequently removed the requirement for three-yearly assessments.

The Department of the Environment and Energy and the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development have worked collaboratively on the assessment of the fishery and agree that the fishery meets all the relevant requirements of the Act that relate to export approval and interactions with protected species in Commonwealth waters.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Murphy'.

Paul Murphy

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy

24 May 2018