



THE ENTRANCE PENINSULA COMMUNITY PRECINCT

ENCOMPASSING: THE ENTRANCE; THE ENTRANCE NORTH; LONG JETTY TOOWOON BAY; BLUE BAY; SHELLY BEACH & MAGENTA

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12 March 2012

The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 30, 1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL FISHING ON WYONG SHIRE'S TUGGERAH LAKES

The Entrance Peninsula Community Precinct Committee (TEPCP) is a community group under the auspices of Wyong Shire Council. Our aim is to provide a two way communications between Council and the community.

At TEPCP's General Meeting held on 21st February, 2012 the following motion was passed:

03/02/12: *Presently indiscriminate fishing by commercial fishermen in Tuggerah Lakes is destroying recreational fishing. We request that the Department of Fisheries review the current arrangements and recommend that no commercial fishing be permitted in the lake system. Letters to be sent to local member Chris Spence and Dept Fisheries* **Moved: J McCabe, Seconded: P O'Grady**

There is a strong view from our Community, that the supply of fish available to recreational fishing in Tuggerah Lakes has been greatly reduced by the extent of commercial fishing and widespread use of large nets.

Therefore the purpose of this letter is to request that you provide for TEPCP, from Fisheries, the following information to allow our community to have an informed view of the extent of commercial fishing and its practices.

1. Provide statistics on the number of Commercial fishermen operating on Tuggerah Lakes each year from 1990 to the present. There is a view that when commercial fishing was banned on Lake Macquarie that the displaced fishermen simply moved south to the Tuggerah Lakes system, resulting in a large increase in the number of commercial fishermen on our lake system.
2. Provide catch statistics for commercially caught species in the Tuggerah Lakes system (by weight in tonnes) from 1990 to the present.
3. To what extent is the illegal practice of using large nets for fishing being monitored? Reports from members of the local community is that many undersized fish are caught by the widespread use of large nets - these fish subsequently die and hence add to the reduction of fish in our lake system.
4. Advise if there is a trend in the amount of fish caught in the Tuggerah Lakes system.
5. Advise TEPCP if there has been any consideration by the Department to ban commercial fishing and/ or change the licensing conditions for the Tuggerah Lake system.

Your prompt response to request for information would be most appreciated.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours Sincerely

Douglas Darlington
Secretary
The Entrance Peninsula Community Precinct Committee
Phone/Fax: 4332 5593
Email: contactus@theentranceprecinct.org

cc Chris Spence MP, Member for The Entrance