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28 January 2022

State Development Regional Industries Committee
Email: sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to: Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021

As a Queenslander who believes all Queenslanders should be doing their best to support Queensland primary producers, I am writing in support of KAP Leader and Traeger MP Robbie Katter's **Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021**

It is heartening to read that Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, in a media release last month, urged Queenslanders "to put plenty of local seafood on the menu" during the festive period.

Additional support has come from the Labor Government's Minister for Fisheries, Mark Furner who has stressed the importance of buying Queensland caught and farmed seafood. He has reminded Queenslanders that buying local means we will be enjoying world-class produce as well as helping local businesses, hard-working professional fishers and aquaculture farmers to continue to support their families.

It is very disappointing that Australia is a net importer of seafood. I am amazed that up to 60 per cent of what's consumed annually is caught or farmed overseas where quality, environmental and sustainability standards are often markedly less than Australia's 'gold standard'.

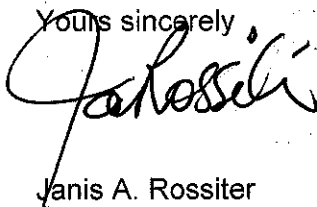
For buyers to make a conscious choice to buy Queensland seafood they must be able to find out easily the origins of what they are considering purchasing.

The retail sector, like supermarkets and seafood stores, is already required by Federal law to label produce at point-of-purchase with its origins, but there is no law requiring fish and chip shops, cafes, restaurants and take-away outlets to advise where their produce has come from.

Mandatory labeling is long overdue. Closing this obvious gaping hole in the industry will cost the State, hospitality businesses and consumers next-to-nothing but will have positive flow-on effects for consumers, local businesses, professional fishers and the aquaculture industry for many years in the future.

With already strong support from the Palaszczuk Labor Government, I sincerely request the pro-Australian **Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021**, designed to increase consumer awareness, support Australian industries and create more local jobs, be passed quickly following this round of community consultation.

Yours sincerely



Janis A. Rossiter