



9 February 2022

Committee Secretary  
State Development and Regional Industries Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary

**Re: Submission regarding the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021**

This submission is presented on behalf of the Queensland Seafood Association (QSIA). The Country of Origin Labelling (CoOL) debate is one of many issues facing the Australian seafood sector.

The Association notes that the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021 explanatory identifies two key policy objectives, namely:

- To increase consumer awareness around the origins of seafood being purchased and consumed; and
- To subsequently support the Australian, and Queensland, seafood industry and the thousands of local jobs it supports.

It should also be noted that the Northern Territory Seafood Council (NTSC) identified a key argument for the implementation of CoOL. The NTSC stated<sup>1</sup>:

A fourth 'have your say on NT seafood' survey report released today has reported labelling laws in the Northern Territory are a success and that consumers have a preference to buy Northern Territory seafood.

'A strong message to restaurants and dining venues is that 95% of Territorians reported they would chose NT labelled seafood over seafood from elsewhere in Australia,' said Northern Territory Seafood Council, CEO, Katherine Winchester.

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<sup>1</sup> NTSC – 12 December 2019: <https://www.ntsc.com.au/content/media-releases-2/seafood-origin-labelling-aids-decisions-making-and-removes-confusion>

The introduction of CoOL is the first step in providing the Queensland seafood consumer with the right to make informed choices. Potential resistance to this Bill makes no sense as the Queensland and Australian consumer deserve the right to know the origin of their seafood. From a wild catch, commercial fishing perspective, future developments of CoOL would help identify local wild caught seafood and farmed aquaculture.

The Association supports the key policy objectives outlined in the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021 and the introduction of CoOL.

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Eric Perez



Chief Executive Officer  
Queensland Seafood Industry Association