



Speech by

## Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard Tuesday, 24 May 2006

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### FISHERIES AMENDMENT BILL

**Ms CROFT** (Broadwater—ALP) (4.05 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Fisheries Amendment Bill 2006. I will be very, very brief because I find the temperature in this House extremely freezing this afternoon so I am having trouble thinking. I want to comment briefly on the new fishing fees and regulations and the consultation that took place with that.

The new fishing fees and regulation package includes a greatly simplified fisheries licensing regime. Changes to management arrangements that will remove unnecessary restrictions give commercial fishers much greater flexibility in how they will be able to run their businesses and will lead to greater efficiency for government and of course the industry. The new arrangements, which come into effect on 1 July 2006, have been developed after extensive consultation with the industry.

A number of my constituents came to me and commented on the way the department consulted throughout Queensland and, in particular, came back and visited the Gold Coast a number of times. Many people gave me feedback on how the department actually listened to their concerns and took into account their views. After those views had been presented and reviewed, the department was then able to use them to formulate the new fees and regulations that have been proposed in the bill today.

I commend the members of the fishing industry on the way they have engaged with the government to develop a package of reforms that meet both their needs and the needs of the government. I would like to particularly acknowledge the past president of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, a gentleman who lives in my electorate, Mr Dennis O'Connell. He is a state councillor for the QSIA and he visited me numerous times to bring me up to date on how fishers on the Gold Coast were reacting to the changes and their views. I would like to thank Mr O'Connell for his comments. I would also like to thank the other fishers who came to see me as well.

New commercial fishing fees will be based on the concept of statutory fishing rights, including provision for compensation where commercial fishing rights are reduced for the benefit of other users. The commercial fishing fees will be based on the value of the fishing rights held by each individual fisher, and those with the greatest rights will of course have to pay the most. This reflects the difficult economic circumstances currently facing the fishing industry and will of course give them time to adjust to the new fee levels. I commend the bill to the House.