



Speech by

**Fiona Simpson**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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## **FISHERIES AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1) 2010: DISALLOWANCE OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (8.12 pm): It is with great pleasure that I support this disallowance motion. I thank the shadow minister for primary industries and fisheries, the member for Condamine. I also acknowledge the contribution of my colleague the member for Kawana and endorse his comments about the need to get rid of this toxic government and toxic MPs who continue to pander to the elite element to do backroom deals that are against the interests of ordinary Queenslanders. The sticky fingers of this government are in the pockets of Queenslanders, ripping out their last dollar and then telling them, 'You can't go fishing,' even though the science does not support this ban that this government has brought about.

The snapper ban is a kick in the guts for fishers and related small businesses. It is not about preserving the precious fishing resources; it is about preserving this Labor government's own political hide. The Greens tail is wagging the Labor dog, and ordinary Queenslanders who are already paying so much for these secret deals and broken Labor promises are being asked to pay yet again. The people paying the price are ordinary Queenslanders who believe in a fair go. They are ordinary Queenslanders who want conservation based on science and common sense. They are not part of the backroom elite who do the deals with this government on marginal seat preferences.

I have just heard tonight the Labor hacks defending their government's arrogance. Let me say this: consultation which does not result in people being listened to is a joke. Consultation which ignores those whom it most impacts is not real consultation. Consultation is about being able to influence the outcome, but there has been a predetermined outcome because that is the way this government does its form of Labor consultation.

Fishers want to have a sustainable resource, but they do not like draconian government decisions which do not make sense and they hate meetings which the government calls consultative meetings. It is not consultation when they are impacted but have no ability to change the outcome. This six-week closure of fishing for snapper and teraglin affects not only those who love their fishing but also the bait and tackle shops which supply those fishers and all of those related industries, particularly the boating industry and charter operators. The Mooloolaba port is in my area. I live on the Sunshine Coast and we have a lot of tourists come to our area as well. The feedback I am receiving from those small businesses is that they have never hurt so bad.

This six-week closure of fishing is a disaster for those who rely upon the fishing industry. They certainly were not consulted. Like many small businesses, they feel ripped off and ignored by a government that is out of touch with ordinary Queenslanders. We in the LNP are practical environmentalists who believe that science matters and we will listen to people and are concerned that the science has been ignored. Recreational fishers are being penalised for this government's arrogance and desperation to hold on to power no matter what it costs, but it is costing ordinary Queenslanders.

Before the natural disasters ripped through Queensland there was already another disaster taking place, and it was this government. That is exemplified by this ban, where the government has brought in a regulation which will have a huge impact upon people and will put people out of business. It will also impact upon those people who make a decision about coming to Queensland such as tourists who love to fish. They will find out that this government is anti people having a go and is unable to sustain a fishing resource with the appropriate enforcement, regulation and environment.

What we want to see is a sustainable fishery, where its management is not done with political intent in the way this government has done but is done in an open way which involves scientists from across the field being able to debate the issues openly, as my colleague has called for. That will ensure that, instead of those having the power that they do to wreak havoc upon people's lives, we truly have a resource about which people know where they stand. They know what is required in order to maintain its sustainability and they know that those fees that are being collected are in fact going to support the ongoing maintenance of that industry and are not unfair and are not in any way burdensome in the way they are applied. But we have not seen that to date with this government.

I support this disallowance motion. I support the ban on the ban. We want to see science brought back into the equation. We want to see accountability in the way that this fishery is managed and we want to see the government, once and for all, listen to industry experts—those credible voices who are beyond the government's own little bubble of self-belief—who are saying that the government has it wrong. The government needs to reconsider. It needs to have proper consultation. It needs to listen and then take into account those voices which are speaking not just with passion but with scientific credibility. They deserve to be heard. The people deserve to be heard. It is time we had a sustainable resource that had the accountability of a proper management program.