

Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021

Statement of Compatibility

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights Act 2019

In accordance with section 38 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, I, Robbie Katter, Member for Traeger, make this statement of compatibility with respect to the *Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021*. In my opinion, the *Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021* is compatible with the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Overview of the Bill

The *Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021* is designed to require by law Country of Origin Labelling (CoOL) of all seafood sold in dining outlets across Queensland. The purpose of this is two-fold: 1) To increase consumer awareness around the origins of seafood being purchased and consumed, and 2) To subsequently support the Australian, and Queensland, seafood industry and the thousands of local jobs it supports.

The Bill seeks to do this by exclusively amending the *Food Act 2006* to achieve the following:

- Removing the CoOL exemption on food service to include the mandatory labelling of seafood sold in food service venues (“dining outlets”);
- Ensuring food service menus identify the origin of seafood through country, region or specific location, at the discretion of the business i.e. Australian Barramundi, or Northern Territory Barramundi, or Humpty Doo Barramundi;
- Requiring imported seafood products, sold at dining outlets, to be labelled with their country of origin or with “i” for imported; and
- Providing the food service sector with a minimum term of 12 months to implement the new labelling legislation.

Human Rights Issues

In my opinion, this Bill does not contravene any human right listed under Part 2, Division 2 and 3 *Human Rights Act 2019*. The Bill focuses largely on increasing consumer awareness around the origins of consumed food, through mandatory CoOL for seafood products sold at dining outlets in the State of Queensland.

It does not restrict an individual’s civil and political rights, such as freedom of movement, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, property rights, privacy and reputation or recognition and equality before the law.

Conclusion

In my opinion, the *Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021* is compatible with human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit a human right.

Robbie Katter
Member for Traeger