




Hon Bill Byrne MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Economic Development

Reference: CTS 13514/17

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000


Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the Agriculture and Environment Committee Report No. 34, tabled on 18 May 2017, on Subordinate legislation tabled 30 November 2016 – 14 February 2017.

The Committee made a recommendation from their examination of SL 238 Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) (Scallops) Amendment Management Plan 2016:

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries undertake a survey of scallop numbers in conjunction with the industry, both inside and outside the protected zone.

The government supports the Committee's recommendation.

The department is working with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to design a project to monitor and assess the scallop stock over the next three years. This includes a fishery independent scallop survey, improving mortality estimates and stock modelling incorporating physical oceanographic processes.


I am pleased to advise that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has committed \$200 000 to this work which includes sampling both inside and outside of the areas that are currently closed to trawling. It is expected that the scallop survey will commence in October 2017.

This work will be a collaborative effort between DAF, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), the University of Queensland and the commercial fishing industry. FRDC has recently advised that it will also contribute funding to the project.

In accordance with section 107(4) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and Standing Order No. 31, could you please arrange for the tabling of this letter as the government response to the Committee's report.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Mr Peter Webber, Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on telephone 07 3096 6069 or email peter.webber@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



The Honourable Bill Byrne MP
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Member for Rockhampton