

Write to your local Victorian MP

and/or

LOCAL PORT PHILLIP BAY MEMBER:

The Hon. Melissa Horne

Member for Williamstown

101 Douglas Parade, Williamstown, VIC 3016

>insert date<

To The Hon. Melissa Horne MP

I am one of the 6.3 million Victorians who elects not to “recreational fish” in order to source my recommended weekly intake of sustainably sourced omega 3-laden seafood from local Victorian waters.

I have been happily sourcing a wide variety of seafood from my local fishmonger, who has in turn sourced his seafood from local fishermen who have been sustainably and respectfully fishing in a highly managed, commercial capacity across Victorian bays and inlets for over a century.

The insistence by the Victorian government to relinquish these commercial fishing licenses needs an urgent rethink, for several reasons:

1. *The fish in our water belong to the public. It is our resource to enjoy. We demand that the non-fishing public are considered as a major stakeholder in re-allocation decisions.*
2. *There is no environmental or ecological research which proves that commercial fishers cannot continue to coexist with recreational fishers. Why is the small population of recreational anglers given preference over the rest of the Victorian fish-eating population?*
3. *It is not fair nor reasonable that the diversity of sustainably-caught species in our Bays and Inlets will no longer be locally available to consumers. These species include two of the most sustainable, locally-sourced species - whitebait and sardines - which are not targeted by recreational anglers.*
4. *Banning netting in the Bays and Inlets means that recreational anglers will now be forced to source imported bait. This poses a high biosecurity risk for our marine environment.*
5. *The government has a responsibility for contributing to global food security. 80% of Victorian fish is imported, which comes with uncertainty around sustainability and takes a source of protein from other countries. We want to have the choice to eat and buy local produce. We have a source of sustainable seafood here in Victoria, why is the option to eat locally, wild-caught seafood being taken away from me?*

I want the right to choose what seafood I eat. I want the right to access locally caught fish without having to cast a line myself. I want to be able to afford to eat seafood, and not have the prices escalate due to species rarity, directly attributable to the lack of local supply.

I look forward to your response.

Regards

Name:

Address: