

To the Environments and Communications committee for the South Australian algal blooms my name is Garry Goldsmith. I am a Narungga man from York Peninsula. My people have been living on this country for millennia and our sea connection is very strong as it is today as it was then our waters have been affected by the algal blooms we are known as the butterfish mob the dusky Morong a fish that have fed our people for thousands of years. We also have dreaming stories of our sea creatures and the environment of how these two gulfs that's are affected were formed we are very concerned about the algal blooms for our people as the effects of global warming that our people have not contributed to yet we have the most vulnerable. Our identity as the country people is at risk many of the other Aboriginal nations know us as the butterfish mob and we have seen that all of the creatures including the butterfish the dusky morwoong have been affected by the Algae bloom. It is our custodianship handed from our ancestors that we are the caretakers of country yet we have been ignored once again by Commonwealth and State government to be stakeholders and our rights to caring for country and remedy in the solutions for the Algal blooms. It seems to be an oppressive system, where we are no longer considered to be stakeholders but rather than receivers of information from governments that tell us how we should live with our country, we've been doing for more than 100s of generation yet the current colonisation that has been here for minute in comparison to our people. We would like to be included at the table not at the end but at the start it seems that the perspectives of scientist and government officials are at the forefront, commercial fishers have seen the benefit to sit at the table and even recreational fishers get a mention however the traditional fishing seems to be forgotten. The Narungga people have a traditional fishing agreement with the state of South Australia first of its kind, to work together for the sustainability of the environment, everyone wants a picture at that time. But no government department represented wants to honor this. We also have a historical 10yr agreement called The Buthera with the State of South Australia that has some key principles to open and honest relationships to be fair and equitable to be up-to-date and transparent. These are all principles that have been disregarded by this current government and we feel that the responsibility obligation is not for us to submit these submissions but for them to come to us out of respect of these agreements that are already in place we are not the only first nations that are concerned with this many other nations share our perspectives and at the same time none of those have also been approached how can we be a part of the solution if we are ignored? How does this continue to happen in this day and age? It seems that this country hasn't learned from the past and if you can't learn from the past how can you go forward what can we expect from Commonwealth and state governments will come to us in a respectful and timely manner to ensure that our perspectives and priorities are also on the agenda. Not when we become the last item that has been forgotten and needs addressed.

Garry Goldsmith

Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC