



WAFIC FISHING
PEARLING
AQUACULTURE

08 November 2022

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To whom it may concern

**INQUIRY INTO FOOD SECURITY
HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

We understand that following a referral from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, on 26 October 2022 the House Standing Committee on Agriculture commenced an inquiry into food security in Australia.

The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) is the peak body representing the commercial fishing industries of Western Australia.

Currently the Western Australian commercial fishing and aquaculture industries produce just 30% of the seafood consumed on the WA domestic market, with the remainder imported from often unsustainable overseas sources. Very little fish seafood is exported from the state, the main export products are invertebrates which are surplus to the consumptive capacity of the WA public – such as western rock lobster, abalone, giant deep sea crabs, scallops and prawns.

The cumulative ever-increasing pressures on the level of fishing access to productive waters is now placing growing pressure on food security.

In particular, we see thousands of square kilometres of lost access due to exclusions from Commonwealth and State marine parks; damage to valuable nursery areas from coastal industrial developments such as expansive solar salt evaporation projects; seismic surveying from oil & gas companies; planned desalination plants for urban water and hydrogen energy hubs; and the four world's largest offshore renewable windfarm proposals.

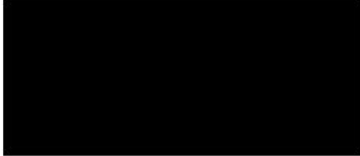
The approval processes for coastal and offshore developments in State and Commonwealth waters are seriously inadequate and give insufficient recognition to the deleterious effects on key stakeholders such as commercial fishing and the associated impacts upon food security.

While the regulatory requirements on land in Australia are robust, there is little control over proposed developments in the marine estate.

WAFIC seeks the opportunity to make a face-to-face presentation to the Committee on this critically important matter.

We also wish to highlight the concerning impacts on production and supply chain costs of rising fuel prices, as well as the need to stimulate the swift removal of immigration barriers to allow overseas workers entry to meet the significant labour shortages across the whole state.

Yours sincerely



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