



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Joe Helper MP
Minister for Agriculture
GPO Box 4440
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts in relation to the export approval for the Victorian Abalone Fishery.

On 3 April 2008, a letter from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) was sent to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), requesting an extension to the export approval for the Victorian Abalone Fishery, as the Victorian Abalone Fisheries Management Plan (VAFMP) is currently being revised and due for completion early next year.

I understand that the changes in the VAFMP will be quite substantial, with inclusions for a fine scale management plan, translocation and biosecurity protocols.

Taking into account information received from DPI on the Victorian Abalone Fishery and the plans for the new VAFMP along with the grounds on which the previous assessment was done, I have agreed to allow the extension for the export approval to 30 June 2009.

You will be able to find copies of the instrument to amend the List of Exempt Native Specimens on our web site at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/vic/abalone/index.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Claire Howlett, Director, Sustainable Fisheries Section on (02) 6274 1917.

Yours sincerely

[Signed]

Ian Cresswell
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

16 May 2008