



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Tim Mulherin, MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts regarding the assessment of the Queensland Coral Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

You would be aware the Coral Fishery has been operating under a short term Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) since July 2006. The Coral Fishery was granted a two year short term WTO to align with the implementation and review of the *Queensland Coral Fishery Policy* which was expected to be completed within two years. The current WTO for the Coral Fishery expires on 1 July 2008. The Coral Fishery was also accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

In April 2008, your Department provided a letter of progress against the Coral Fishery's WTO recommendations as a basis for considering an extension of the current WTO declaration under Part 13A of the EPBC Act. I am pleased by progress made by your Department in meeting the recommendations and note that although there has been some slippage in completing all of the recommendations, this has largely been attributed to a combination of unavoidable delays and to the decision to complete an ecological risk assessment for the Coral Fishery.

In recognition of this progress, I am prepared to extend the current WTO to the full three year period, enabling export from the fishery until 1 July 2009. At this time a full reassessment of the Coral Fishery will be conducted.

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

Yours sincerely

Ian Cresswell

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

28th May 2008



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