

The Hon Matthew Groom MP
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as the Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the reassessment of the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In January 2014, the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service provided an application to the Department of the Environment seeking continued export approval for the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery.

The application has now been assessed under the wildlife trade provisions of Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The assessment took into account measures that have been developed by the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service in response to the recommendations made in the 2009 assessment of the fishery.

I am pleased to advise that the assessment is now complete. The new assessment report will be available on the Department of the Environment's website at:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/marine/fisheries/tas/freshwater-eel>.

I consider that the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery operates in line with the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition*. Given the management arrangements and precautionary measures for the fishery, including limited entry, spatial closures, gear restrictions and size limits, I have decided to amend the list of exempt native specimens to allow export of product from the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery to continue for a period of five years, until 17 April 2019.

While there are some environmental risks associated with the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery, I believe that the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service has in place measures to address these issues. Officers from the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service and this Department have discussed and agreed to five recommendations focussing on ensuring the continuation of good management practices. These recommendations can be found at **Attachment 1**.

I would like to thank you for the constructive way in which your officials have approached this assessment.

Yours sincerely

[Signed]

Paul Murphy
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment
17 April 2014

Recommendations to the Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service on the ecologically sustainable management of the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery, April 2014

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the management regime in force under the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* and the *Inland Fisheries Regulations 2009*.
2. The Tasmanian Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) to inform the Department of the Environment of any intended material changes to the Tasmanian Freshwater Eel Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* decisions are made.
3. The Tasmanian IFS to produce and present reports to the Department of the Environment annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. The Tasmanian IFS to collaborate with other jurisdictions and pursue consistent and complementary management arrangements for target species.
5. The Tasmanian IFS to finalise and implement the performance measures and indicators developed in the industry development plan, including appropriate management responses should performance measures not be met.