



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Mr Richard Meldrum
Fishery Manager
Schulz Fisheries Pty Ltd
PO Box 7146
URANGAN QLD 4655

Dear Mr Meldrum

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Energy in relation to the reassessment of the Queensland Schulz Fisheries Pty Ltd fishery under Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In May 2019, you provided an application to the Department of the Environment and Energy seeking approval for the operation. The application has been assessed and I have declared the fishery approved under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. The Part 13 approval includes recommendations relating to areas of the management arrangements that require ongoing attention. These recommendations are set out at Attachment 1.

I am satisfied the existing Part 13 accreditation will remain in place based on the assessment of the fishery's management arrangements designed to minimise interactions with species listed under the EPBC Act.

As the Queensland Schulz Fisheries Pty Ltd fishery operates within Queensland waters, I have sent a similar letter to Mr Graeme Bolton, A/g Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry for the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, for his information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Sibley'.

Nathan Sibley
A/g Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

02 September 2019

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Recommendation to the Queensland Schulz Fisheries Pty Ltd fishery on the ecologically sustainable management of the Queensland Schulz Fisheries Pty Ltd fishery, August 2019

1. Operation of the Queensland Schulz Fisheries Pty Ltd must be carried out in accordance with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries management arrangements in force under the *Fisheries Act 1994* (QLD) and Fisheries Regulation 2008 (QLD).
2. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must inform the Department of the Environment and Energy prior of any intended material changes to the management arrangements that may affect the Part 13 approval against which EPBC Act decisions are made.
3. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must provide reports to the Department of the Environment and Energy annually as per Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries - 2nd Edition*.
4. Queensland Schulz Fisheries Pty Ltd, in collaboration with Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, must:
 - ensure that robust monitoring of target, byproduct and bycatch species, through the use of onboard cameras, is undertaken whilst fishing,
 - ensure that on board cameras are installed by an independent, suitably qualified technician so that catch composition can be captured effectively on all trips,
 - ensure that an independent, suitably qualified individual or individuals examine the on board camera footage after each fishing trip,
 - provide a report to the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries after the gear trial has been completed, which details the impacts of the fishing operation on bycatch and benthic biota,
 - utilise the results of the gear trial to implement robust stock assessments for target species; and
 - report all interactions with sharks and rays encountered on fishing trips by including this information in annual reports, submitted to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries during the operation of the three year developmental permit, to monitor the effectiveness of turtle excluder devices used in the fishery.