



Media Release: Minister welcomes new national seafood industry body

Tuesday 21 March 2017

The Turnbull Government welcomes the announcement of the formation of a new, national peak body, Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) and the appointment of the inaugural board.

"I am confident that the SIA will be a strong advocate for Australia's \$2.8 billion seafood industry," Assistant Minister Anne Ruston said.

"I look forward to working with the SIA as it promotes and supports the opportunities for Australia's world class seafood industry.

"This announcement delivers upon the Coalition's 2013 election commitment, which provided \$535,000 to support the establishment of a peak seafood industry body."

The seven board members bring a range of skills to the table, including expertise in the wild-catch, aquaculture and post-harvest sectors, including retailers and exporters.

"When industry speaks with one voice to government, it has a greater impact," Assistant Minister Anne Ruston said.

"Importantly, the SIA has widespread industry support, with more than 100 organisations and individuals pledging their financial support.

"I want to thank the work of the National Seafood Industry Alliance—especially Veronica Papacosta, who played a critical role in the formation of the SIA and consulted widely with industry."

First order of business for the SIA will be to select a chairperson and build close relationships with other stakeholders, as it works on an array of issues that affect both our state and commonwealth fisheries.

Together with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association and state-based organisations, the SIA provides governments at every level a united voice to advocate on behalf of the Australian seafood industry.

Board members are: Marshall Betzel, Chauncey Hammond, Dennis Holder, Veronica Papacosta, Mark Ryan, Marcus Stehr and Belinda Wilson. The members will meet to select a chair and develop the constitution.

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