

**Kim Booth MP**

Member for Bass  
**Tasmanian Greens**

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Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Ms Katrina Hodgkinson MP  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Level 30  
Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Email: [burrinjuck@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:burrinjuck@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

*cc: Mr Steve Whan MLC, Shadow Minister for Resources and Primary Industries and Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, Spokesperson for Marine Environment and Fisheries*

Dear Minister Hodgkinson,

**Re: Super Trawler**

I write to urge you to follow the lead of Tasmania and South Australia and express your states' opposition to the operation of the super trawler, the *FV Margiris*, in Commonwealth waters.

As you would be aware, the Tasmanian House of Assembly passed a tri-partite motion on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012, tabled by the Tasmanian Greens and subsequently amended on the floor of the House by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Hon Bryan Green, directing the Speaker of the House to write to Minister Ludwig to advise him that the House will not support the *FV Margiris* until the Parliament can be satisfied that the vessel and proposed harvest strategy will not adversely impact on the recreational fishery. All three parties represented in the House of Assembly voted in support of the amended motion.

Please find included the letter from the Speaker of the House and the response from Minister Ludwig. As you can see in the letter, the Minister was unable to provide a clear assurance that this super trawler would not adversely impact on recreational fishers.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012, the South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, the Hon Paul Caica, released a ministerial statement announcing that the South Australian Government had also written to the Federal Minister for Fisheries, urging the Commonwealth Government to not allow the *FV Margiris* to operate in the Small Pelagic Fishery.

Further to the actions taken by the Tasmanian and South Australian states, the Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson tabled a motion to disallow the Small Pelagic Fishery Total Allowable Catch. This

disallowance motion was debated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012 and is scheduled to be voted on when the Senate next sits on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

You might also be aware that Western Australian MHR Melissa Parkes plans on tabling a private members bill designed to block vessels as large as the 142-metre long vessel super trawler. It is reported that the bill will have the support of Tasmanian senators Carol Brown and Lin Thorp as well as MHR Julie Collins.

The various actions on a state and federal level that have been taken to stop the super trawler are in response to the ever-increasing public concern that the operation of this trawler will not be of any benefit to Australia. The Australia-wide petition to *Stop the Super Trawler* now has 84, 429 signatures.

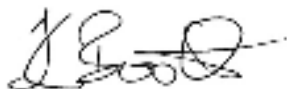
Opposition to the super trawler comes from all sectors of the community ranging from eNGOs, recreational and commercial fishers, scientists and the broader public. Whilst approval for the venture rests entirely with the Commonwealth government the impact of this super trawler, if allowed to operate, will not be felt just in Commonwealth waters.

Each state government has a responsibility to oppose this super trawler and protect their local fisheries and marine ecosystems. In so doing we can apply signification pressure to ensure that the Commonwealth makes the right decision for the Commonwealth waters but also our state waters. The ocean is a common larder and playground for recreational fishers, divers, conservationists and commercial fishers alike.

Day by day this super trawler is running out of places to go. Its trail of worldwide destruction has finally caught up with it and we must now stand up, state by state, to stop it from decimating our fisheries in the same way that it has done globally.

I urge you to take a stand for our common ocean resource and consider writing to Minister Ludwig as a matter of urgency, requesting that the super trawler is not granted an operating licence for our shared Commonwealth waters.

Yours sincerely,



**Kim Booth MP**

**Member for Bass**

**Tasmanian Greens spokesperson for Primary Industries**