



TARFish

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc.

www.tarfish.org

*Looking after the
interests of recreational
marine fishers*

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Minister Burke must announce Final Declaration

Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke must follow through with the undertakings he gave to Australia's 5 million strong recreational fishing community and make the Final Declaration banning the Super Trawler FV Abel Tasman (Margiris).

What was announced by the proponent of the Super Trawler yesterday was put on the table for consideration in our discussions as part of federal Fisheries Minister Joe Ludwig's Working Group back in late July. The announced trigger limits and move on provisions were referred to the CSIRO representative, assigned to the Working Group, who indicated they could not give any scientific certainty whether the risks of local area depletion, particularly on the East Coast of Tasmania, would be addressed by the concepts proposed by the proponent.

To our knowledge no updated science has been undertaken since July therefore we see no justifiable reason why Minister Burke should delay in making the Final Declaration banning the Super Trawler whilst his publically announced Expert Panel further assesses the likely impacts of industrial scale fishing operations. Currently we have three separate, but related, processes being undertaken by government into the Super Trawler issue:

- 1) Minister Ludwig's "Root and Branch,...first major review of Australia's fisheries management system in two decades"
- 2) the Ombudsman's review into the legitimacy of the processes surrounding the setting of the Total Allowable Catch for the Small Pelagic Fishery and
- 3) Minister Burke's "Expert Panel to conduct an assessment of all the potential impacts of the FV Abel Tasman before it can be given approval to fish in Commonwealth waters".

Until all of these processes have concluded and reported back to government can the recreational fishing community have any faith that their concerns about the potential impacts of the Super Trawler have been addressed.

Contact Mark Nikolai, Chief Executive Officer on 0403 868 004 for further information.

TARFish is the independent, government recognised peak body looking after the interests of recreational marine fishers in Tasmania.