



Hon Ann Bressington MLC

Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Phone: 08 8237 9541
Mob: 0448 887 277
Fax: 08 8237 9534

MEDIA RELEASE

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YOUR FISHERY, YOUR SAY

Independent MLC Ann Bressington is urging cockle fishermen to have their say on the most significant reform of the industry in years.

Ms Bressington has successfully called for a parliamentary inquiry after receiving numerous complaints from license holders about proposed quota allocations in the Murray and Lower Lakes Pipi Fishery and Coffin Bay, West Coast and Section Bank Mud Cockle Fisheries.

Ms Bressington said she had been blown away by how strong the opposition had been to the Minister's reforms.

"I strongly urge all license holders who are concerned about the future of their fishery to make a submission to this inquiry," Ms Bressington said.

"With so many allegations and unanswered questions, it is vital that people have their say so we can rectify this difficult situation and the fishery can move forward."

Advertisements calling for submissions are being placed this week in the The Times (Victor Harbor), Eyre Peninsula Tribune, West Coast Sentinel and the Port Lincoln Times.

"It was and still is my firm belief that if an inquiry shows all processes were carried out and outcomes achieved were equitable and transparent, the regulations should proceed unhindered," Ms Bressington said.

"However, if evidence presented shows that the concerns of fishermen were valid then recommendations will be made to improve the function of PIRSA and will also be used to advise the Minister on issues that need to be addressed."

The closing date for submissions is Friday, 13 March, with the first Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, 19 March.

For further information, please see <http://bressington.net/sub/Policies/Cockles.htm> or contact Ann Bressington directly on 0448 887 277