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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MINISTER DROWNS SA COCKLERS**

After months of bullying and intimidation, Fisheries Minister Rory McEwen yesterday announced that Lower Lakes and Coorong cockler's will not be allocated sufficient quota to sustain their businesses.

In a heartless move, the Minister announced the opening of the season will commence on Saturday and that their restrictions will be in force for the coming 12 months until "regulatory standards" can be agreed upon.

Cockler's will see their allowable catch nearly halved which will be the end of their self-made businesses. Adding insult to injury, the Minister imposed a restriction on the trading of licenses, which means now cockler's have a license and barely any quota.

This is a spiteful and unnecessary move and is typical of the excessive force used by this Government to stomp Aussie Battlers into the dirt.

The reality is that the Minister has known of the Parliament's attitude to his regulations since July and has done nothing to overcome the impasse in all those months. The Minister has had plenty of time to negotiate a reasonable position, but he has deliberately chosen not to. Through sheer force he has gotten his own way, and seems completely oblivious to the carnage this will create.

The Minister stated he had an obligation under the Fisheries Management Act he had a responsibility to protect the sustainability of the pipi fishery. I would emphasise that, as Minister, he also had an obligation to protect the sustainability of those of who have fished these waters for over 40 years. The Minister has, for whatever reason, abandoned those who trusted Government to do the right thing.

When we look at this ruthless Government's track record over the past 12 months of screwing its people to the wall:

- WorkCover
- Magarey Farlam
- Breach of contract with the casino
- And now Pipi Fishermen

The word is "STAY AWAY FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA".

**For further information please contact 8237 9596**