



**Steven Kons, MHA**  
Minister for Primary Industries and  
Water

**Heather Butler, MHA**  
Member for Lyons

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### **Marine Protected Areas Meeting**

A meeting at St Helens has been told the Commonwealth's proposed Marine Protected Areas will drive many of the district's fishermen out of business.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water Steve Kons addressed the meeting of about 200, some with and many without direct connection to the fishing industry, saying the Federal Government had moved the goalposts after initial negotiations over the reserves system.

"The Federal Government has treated Tasmania and the fishing industry with contempt through this process.

"We simply can't trust the Liberals in these negotiations.

"Gaining control of both Houses of Federal Parliament has steered the Liberals towards the soft green vote to the detriment of our fishing industry," Mr Kons said.

The Deputy Premier David Llewellyn who also attended the at times heated meeting said it was impossible to understand the basis of some of the recommended reserves system.

"How can you have an area excluded from fishing yet allow mining of the seabed, which is the very thing supposedly being protected?"

Another Member for Lyons, Heather Butler, helped organise the public meeting to gather information for an impact study to be presented to the Federal Government next month.

She said the proposal would devastate the whole town of St

Helens.

"It's not good enough to say fishermen who give up will be properly compensated.

"What happens to the take-away, the pub or the rest of the town that is interdependent on a thriving fishing industry?"