

## FACT SHEET

### *Inland Fisheries Amendment (Royalties) Bill 2019*

This Bill will validate any eel royalties, or fish farm licence fees, paid to the Director of Inland Fisheries to date and enable the ongoing collection of eel royalties.

During a recent review of Inland Fisheries regulations it became apparent that section 9(1)(q) of the *Fisheries Act 1959* (repealed) formerly made provision for regulations 'prescribing royalties to be paid in respect of the taking of any particular kind or species of fish.' However, a similar provision was not included in section 194, or in any of the other regulation-making provisions under sections 184 – 195, of the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* when it replaced the earlier legislation.

The *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* allows for fees relating to provision of services, but not fees relating to kilograms of wild eels caught commercially (royalties) or water used by fish farms. It was an historical administrative oversight that commercial fees for the eel fishery and freshwater hatcheries were incorrectly levied for an extended period of time.

This Bill rectifies this situation by amending the *Inland Fisheries Act 1995* with both validating and enabling provisions to endorse commercial fees and royalties received in the past and to allow the Director of Inland Fisheries to collect royalties from the wild harvest eel fishery into the future.