

## DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON GUY BARNETT MP

### *Living Marine Miscellaneous Amendments (Digital Processes) Bill 2021*

Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

I present to the House the *Living Marine Miscellaneous Amendments (Digital Processes) Bill 2021*.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* and the *Fishing (Licence Ownership and Interest) Registration Act 2001* to enable the introduction of digital platforms and processes in the regulation of sea fisheries in Tasmania.

In 2016-2017, initial funding was allocated to the development of the Fisheries Integrated Licensing and Management System to maximise efficiencies for fisheries management and quota monitoring.

That led to an additional \$5 million Government commitment to develop and implement digital licensing and reporting tools for the Tasmanian commercial wild-capture fishing industry under the Fisheries Digital Transition Project.

Stage 1 of the Project delivered the first iteration of an online platform for the making of licensing applications in March 2020.

This Bill is a fundamental aspect of the Project, as it will enable the rollout of full functionality in the licensing platform, as well as a digital catch and effort reporting platform.

These platforms will maximise efficiencies for the fishing industry, fisheries management, and quota monitoring.

This Bill enables paper-based processes to continue alongside the rollout of digital tools. This means that industry can elect to use either paper or the digital platforms.

Digital tools will make it significantly easier for industry to deal with the regulator and will streamline administration of the wild-capture commercial fishing industry.

This Bill enables digital licensing processes while retaining existing licensing criteria. It ensures that discretionary considerations such as whether someone is a fit and proper person to operate in the Tasmanian sea fishing industry will continue to be assessed by a person. Factual criteria will be determined by an approved computer program where appropriate.

This Bill will not change the current catch and effort reporting requirements for the commercial wild-capture fishing industry, it will just allow industry to comply with those requirements quickly and easily using digital tools.

Mr Speaker, this Bill will deliver on the Government's commitment to enable efficient and modern digital tools and technologies for the Tasmanian commercial fishing industry, without increasing the regulatory or administrative burden.

The Bill introduces amendments that will allow licence holders and holders of abalone quota held under a deed of agreement to authorise Licensing Agents to carry out specific licensing transactions on their behalf. This is consistent with the model established by the Commonwealth agency regulating commercial fishing (the Australian Fisheries Management Authority).

This Bill ensures that Fisheries Officers have appropriate powers to require the production of information held on phones, tablets, and other devices used to make applications or submit required records. Evidentiary provisions have been amended to contemplate digital transactions and the use of digital devices.

This Bill inserts provisions into the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* and the *Fishing (Licence Ownership and Interest) Registration Act 2001* to ensure that documents can be given and received electronically. It provides that specific registers can be kept and maintained digitally, and that people can more easily access their own data stored in the registers.

Importantly, the Bill ensures that existing licence holders will be carried over and will not be required to re-apply for their licences.

Mr Speaker, this Bill is an important first step in ensuring modern, efficient regulation of the industry. These amendments will be built on by the review of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act* announced in the 2020-2021 Budget.

Mr Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.