



11 November 2019

Dear Madam/Sir,

This letter is in support of the new Sydney Fish Market development at Blackwattle Bay. I write in my capacity as Chair of the NSW Seafood Industry Council, the NSW peak industry body that represents the broader seafood industry via its members which include the Master Fish Merchants' Association of Australia, the Professional Fishermen's Association, Sydney Fish Market, the NSW Fisherman's Cooperative Association and OceanWatch Australia. Collectively we believe that relocating the new premises to its chosen location on Blackwattle Bay will be beneficial to the NSW Seafood Industry in a number of significant ways. Broadly, the development will replace an ailing structure with a new working retail and operational facility, fit for the 21st century. It will, in its new layout, more fully support and encourage growth in the NSW seafood industry through its improved facilities and its greater ability to promote the industry. The building itself, through its design and architecture, is a huge improvement on the previous facilities and will undoubtedly become a landmark Sydney attraction.

From our perspective, demand for seafood will continue to increase into the future. As an iconic destination for tourists and Sydneysiders alike, the new Sydney Fish Market will serve as a masthead industry brand, with unique visitor experiences. The new site, at its new location within the Bays Precinct, will give the public unprecedented visibility to the industry's unique operations. This is strongly supported by the NSW Seafood Industry Council.

The new site will also give Sydney Fish Market enhanced opportunities to deliver better educational initiatives, as they relate to the NSW seafood industry's history as well as the sustainability, and provenance of our products which will help improve the image of our industry.

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Also, we see operational benefits with the new site, that will streamline operations and support growth in the industry as a whole. Building and operating a new focal hub for seafood wholesale and distribution in NSW with a modern design, will enable us to innovate and diversify. Increasing wharf capacity and providing concurrent loading and unloading of product for local and visiting fishing vessels, is important in minimising transit times for the product, thereby enhancing freshness and quality.

The proximity of the wharf to the purpose-built trading floor and distribution facilities, will further ensure that the superb quality of NSW seafood remains unmatched anywhere in the world. This is indeed something our industry holds very dearly. We also understand from the exhibited material that the new site's temperature-controlled auction floor, will set new operational and environmental standards. It will comfortably accommodate the Market's full range of products, enable the product to be better cared for throughout the wholesale process, and maximise the product's quality.

Most importantly, the seafood industry's contribution to employment in NSW is already significant, supporting approximately 4,000 full-time jobs in an industry worth in excess of \$400 million annually. The rejuvenation and transformation of the old premises into a new state-of-the-art facility will, as we are informed, increase employment by approximately 2,400 full-time jobs by 2032. This will contribute greatly to the broader NSW economy.

For the reasons stated above, I would like to, on behalf of the NSW SIC, give full support to the Fish Market Proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Skepper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bryan Skepper
Chair