



## Australian Government

### Australian Fisheries Management Authority

25 March 2020

REF: DOC20/6250

Dear Concession Holder,

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority recognises that many Commonwealth fishing concession holders and commercial fishers may be experiencing financial hardship due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The timing of the scheduled due dates of the next two AFMA levy instalment invoices may be adding to these difficulties for some operators.

We recognise the difficulties being faced and are committed to assisting concession holders in what ways we can. One way for AFMA to assist at this point is to defer those levy amounts that are due on 1 April 2020 until 15 June 2020.

Concession holders experiencing financial hardship who wish to seek deferment of the second levy instalment will need to apply to AFMA before the instalment becomes due on 1 April 2020. To simplify this process AFMA has developed an application form to be completed and returned by concession holders. In order for a deferral of levy to be considered, this form must be returned to AFMA by 31 March 2020. Please note, if a levy payment is deferred, penalty will only start to accrue after the 'new' due date has passed and levy remains unpaid.

Please be advised that where a concession holder is in a position to make their levy payments by the original scheduled due dates AFMA strongly encourages you to do so. Even if a deferral is approved, part payments or payment in full prior to the 'new' due date are welcome.

Second instalment levy invoices for the extended instalment will not be re-issued with the deferred date.

Concession holders that do not seek a deferment will need to have made payment by the 1 April 2020 due date or have entered into an arrangement to pay. An arrangement to pay would include an administration fee and a percentage of the outstanding total to be paid up-front. If no such arrangement is established, and payment isn't made in full by the due date, penalties will accrue on any unpaid amount. Please make sure you seek a deferment or are in a position to make full payment of the second levy instalment by 1 April 2020.

AFMA also intends to defer the due date of the third levy instalment. A decision surrounding the last instalment will be taken before the levy notices are issued (expected on 1 May 2020). We will notify you of the revised arrangements as soon as possible.

#### Canberra

PO Box 7051  
Canberra ACT 2610  
P 02 6225 5555  
F 02 6225 5500

#### Darwin

PO Box 131  
Darwin NT 0801  
P 08 8943 0333  
F 08 8942 2897

#### Thursday Island

PO Box 376  
Thursday Island QLD 4875  
P 07 4069 1990  
F 07 4069 1277

#### Lakes Entrance

PO Box 408  
Lakes Entrance VIC 3909  
P:0447 019 916



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

The challenges facing industry at the moment are unprecedented and AFMA is committed to finding ways to assist in addressing them. If you have any questions please email [levies@afma.gov.au](mailto:levies@afma.gov.au) or call 1300 723 621.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Kroger'.

**Helen Kroger**

Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wez Norris'.

**Wez Norris**

Chief Executive Officer