



## Petition

Registration No.	2
Title	CLOSURE OF CHAMBERS AND FINKE BAY TO COMMERCIAL FISHING
Presented on	31 October 2012
Presented by	Mr Wood
Referred to	Primary Industries & Fisheries (WWvH)
Date referred	331.10.2012
Response due	20 February 2013
Response received	27 November 2012
Response presented	28 November 2012

### Petition

Chambers and Finke Bay Petition: **WE WANT FRESH WILD CAUGHT LOCAL BARRAMUNDI ON OUR PLATE**

### TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

This petition of concerned citizens draws to the attention to the Legislative Assembly the proposed closure of Chambers and Finke Bay. The proposal to close this area to commercial fishing has failed to include genuine consultation, and has failed to acknowledge the highly sustainable stock status of the barramundi fishery as highlighted in the latest Fishery Status report 2010.

We ask the legislative assembly to urge the Government to halt the current process of establishing closures to the commercial fishing industry in Chambers and Finke Bay and to ensure that any future closure boundaries are:

- Based on science, and that science is made available to all stakeholders.
- Accompanied by socio-economic research to show impacts on commercial fisheries, fishing tour operators, recreational anglers and associated communities and industries, including tourism.
- Considerate of consumers who buy and enjoy eating fresh local wild caught barramundi.

### Response

Government's announced commitment to implement the proposed closure of Chambers and Finke Bays to commercial barramundi fishing is based on reallocating the barramundi resource and addressing outstanding social issues in the fishery.

Government's vision is for creating a premier trophy fishery for barramundi in a key location, whilst also providing for a profitable commercial fishery in other areas so that seafood supply can continue.

A public comment period on the legislative changes required to implement the closures has been provided and submissions are currently being considered before government makes its final decision on the matter.

Once the final decision is made, a licence buy-back scheme will be undertaken with the aim of removing an appropriate number of licences and adjusting effort levels in the fishery accordingly.

The best possible package of benefits to the Territory is being sought from the fishery based on a high value recreational fishing experience and maintaining a viable and profitable commercial industry.