



SENATOR THE HON RICHARD COLBECK

Senator for Tasmania

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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Fisheries ministers unite for key discussions

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck, is hosting a Fisheries Ministers meeting in Melbourne tomorrow to discuss management of Australia's \$2.4 billion seafood industry.

The meeting will be attended by state and territory fisheries ministers and will focus on collaborative efforts to achieve the best return for industry.

"We'll be looking at ideas for simpler and better aligned regulation between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions, opportunities to remove duplication and lower administration costs," Senator Colbeck said.

"Australia has a world class fisheries management system and the industry makes an important contribution to our economy and way of life. It's in everyone's interests to ensure the industry remains profitable and continues producing high yields."

Senator Colbeck said it was the first time in more than a decade that Australian fisheries ministers have met to discuss key issues.

"I'm looking forward to meeting with my state counterparts tomorrow to discuss how we can work together to make life easier for our fishers by streamlining regulations and removing unnecessary red tape."

"Cooperation will be key to further red tape reduction for commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishers."

"The fisheries sector should be supported and appropriately regulated – it should not be vilified and undermined."

Senator Colbeck said the meeting would be a good opportunity for Fisheries Ministers to learn from the experiences of different jurisdictions on ways to progress the fishing industry.

The Coalition went to the 2013 federal election with a range of fisheries policies that support a competitive and sustainable industry.