

20 August 2020

The Hon Adam Marshall, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Opera House “Platypus” Traps

Dear Minister,

In our letter to you of 21 May 2020, the New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA) asked specifically when you intend to ban the use of opera house traps by recreational anglers and when you expect to release the outcome of consultations between Fisheries NSW and licensed commercial yabby fishers in the Western Division of NSW on the use of opera house traps. But your recent response (your reference OM20/3819) failed to provide this advice.

We ask again, when are you going to ban the use of opera house traps? We continue to be disappointed with your response—while this matter has been before you for well over a year now, platypus and other wildlife continue to die in what can be described as “platypus traps”.

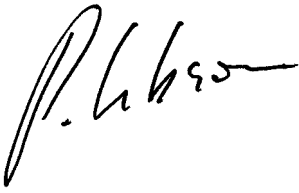
We note that:

- The use of these traps has been banned in Victoria and, more recently, in the ACT;
- Your own Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council in its February 2019 minutes endorsed a recommendation to prohibit the use of opera house traps;
- your colleague, The Hon Matt Kean, MP, Minister for Energy and the Environment, is concerned about the impact of these traps on native wildlife, and supports measures that will help and preserve native wildlife species.

We cannot understand why you continue to delay banning the use of these traps when you had the opportunity to do so well before any supposed disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Thank you for your invitation to discuss opera house traps with Mr Peter Turnell, but members of the NSWCFCA, have, over more than 18 months, had discussions with Mr Turnell and other departmental officers on this subject, to no avail. Mr Turnell does not have the authority to sign off on the regulation—only you, as Minister, have that power. The NSWCFCA considers the delay in introducing the ban unacceptable and is investigating other ways of achieving this ban.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gibson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Gibson
President
NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

cc Mr Peter Turnell Group Director, Recreational & Aboriginal Fisheries