

TRACA



To whom it may concern:

**RE: LMRM Act Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Living Marine Resources Management Act review.

At the time of the Act's inception in 1995, the Tasmanian Government were bold to include the rights of Aboriginal cultural fisheries. However, in the intervening years the Act has failed to take into consideration Aboriginal interests in total catch allocation and has become more a clearing house to decide who may be Aboriginal for the purposes of cultural activity permits.

The members of TRACA believe that the Act could be more inclusive and purposeful for modern day needs, such as conservation and shared benefit of a public resource. In this spirit, the members of TRACA would like to have a role in stewarding the Act's purpose, scope and intent by being included within its principles and objectives as Traditional Owners and continuing custodians. In this way, Aboriginal Tasmanian communities can participate with government and other communities to jointly manage our sea country resources and to have a say in how our fisheries are conducted for sustainable futures.

One purpose of TRACA's work is to ensure that our members are included in the governance of Tasmanian natural resources. The *Reset the Relationship* framework is a good government strategy that has as a priority the opportunities for Aboriginal Tasmanians to participate in joint management of land and seas. We believe that acknowledging Aboriginal Tasmanians as First Peoples of our marine resources will be an appropriate top-down response that ensures we have a place in the governance of marine resources, such as advisory bodies and committees, and a say in defining sustainability. It is imperative we care for our sea country, for our connection to our marine resources to provide a future of employment, training and business opportunities for our future generations.

Aboriginal Tasmanians have been caring for sea country for more than 40,000 years. We are the most southern, oldest and isolated population in the world and much of our culture is derived from our connections to sea country. We want to have the responsibility and obligation to care for sea country through the LMRM Act. We would like for TRACA to be included as a peak Aboriginal body that is able to participate in the co-design of regulation, management, and governance of the revised Act. We should be resourced and supported by the Tasmanian Government to do so.

We look forward to being included in the on-going work of the review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'PP' followed by a stylized name, likely 'Patsy Cameron'.

Dr Patsy Cameron  
TRACA Chair