

Mark Robinson MP
LNP Member for Cleveland

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Crab dilly ban cements Labor as anti-fishing party

On 2 April 2010 the Bligh Labor government will outlaw the use of inverted crab dillies all across Queensland. The crab dillies are one of the most popular and cheapest crab fishing devices - with thousands of them in boats and backyard sheds in coastal areas of Queensland.

LNP Member for Cleveland, Mark Robinson condemned the move as an extreme Green measure that revealed the anti-fishing bias of the Labor government.

Dr Robinson said, "the fisheries department claimed that the ban was needed because of the high number of turtle deaths caused by these crab dillies, when in fact the government's own records provided by the Sustainability minister on 11 March showed that only ONE (1) turtle had died since 2005 in all of Queensland by crab dillies." [*see attached Answer to Question on Notice]

"The government's claim of substantial turtle deaths has been shown to be without foundation and reveals the deep prejudice it holds towards boaties and fishers. To ban this practice based on 1 death is ludicrous and shows that irrational extreme Green thinking is dominating this Labor government and clouding its judgement.

"The LNP is committed to protecting marine life and reducing the numbers of turtle deaths. A focus is needed on reducing the impact of the real human factors of ingested plastics, boat propeller strikes, trawler nets and water pollution. But to ban crab dillies based on 1 turtle death is going too far.

"Many more turtles die from ingesting party balloons than from being caught in crab dillies.

Dr Robinson said "this unjust decision also reveals a dysfunctional Labor government with the Fisheries and Sustainability ministers at odds with the facts and each other."

"On top of dramatically higher boat, trailer and car registrations, and the Bligh government's fuel tax, the cost of crab fishing will increase yet again as more expensive alternatives to dillies will be needed. The government has again let down Bayside and Queensland boaties and fishers.

"The fisheries minister needs to stand up to the Sustainability minister for misleading him with false statistics, immediately reverse his decision and restore some confidence among boaties that the Fisheries department can defend truth over extreme Green irrationality.

END

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*Answer provided 11 March 2010 by Sustainability Minister to a Question on notice from the member for Cleveland, 9 February 2010.