



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

File reference: F2007/0090
30 May 2008

Ms Janet Holmes, Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts
House of Representatives, Parliament House
PO Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Holmes,

House of Representatives inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities

Thank you for your letter dated 2 April 2008 providing the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) with the opportunity to comment on issues relevant to the House of Representatives inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australian coastal communities.

Climate change is expected to have direct impacts on our coastal towns and communities in a range of different ways and we welcome this inquiry to ensure an appropriate Government response. Although AFMA does not have any direct legislative responsibilities for coastal communities, we recognize that many of our key stakeholders in the commercial fishing industry, live in coastal communities and will be directly impacted by the effects of climate change.

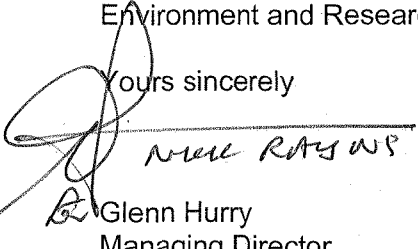
We also recognize that climate change is expected to affect the productivity and distribution of fish and other species which make up our marine ecosystems and the fisheries upon which coastal communities depend. These indirect impacts on coastal communities, although less tangible, should not be forgotten.

While AFMA does not have a particular submission to make to the House of Representatives Inquiry regarding coastal communities, we do want to draw the Inquiry's attention to these indirect impacts.

Meanwhile, AFMA will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to develop, and where appropriate, implement a National Climate Change and Fisheries Action Plan.

If you require further information please contact David Johnson, AFMA's Senior Manager, Environment and Research on phone 02 6225 5432 or dave.johnson@afma.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Glenn Hurry

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to file; 6277 4424

Submission No:	37
Date Received:	30-5-08
Secretary:	