



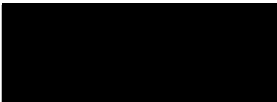
### Submission on the Rating of Oyster leases

NSW Strategic Plan Implementation Group (the Group) is made up of nine oyster growers from a wide spread of growing regions who, by implementing the 2015 NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan, are attempting to turn around the decline in the NSW Oyster Industry that has been occurring for the last 30 years .

The Group believes that Council Rates should not be applied to oyster leases because:

- Oyster businesses already contribute to their local councils by paying rates on their land bases
- The water based leases are situated below the high tide mark and are accessed by punts travelling over water. Administratively, oyster leases and boating activities are controlled by NSW Fisheries and the RMS both of whom are paid appropriate fees by farmers. Local Government provides no services to the leases.
- Rates are not paid by other activities, such as RMS moorings, below the high tide, so nor should oyster leases
- Discussions with Local Government Councils in the early 1990's revealed that the cost of processing rates on oyster leases was of little net financial benefit to those Councils and in some cases rating oyster leases represented a financial loss.

Yours sincerely



Tony Troup

Chair