



Andrew Constance MP

Minister for Finance and Services

Member for Bega

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 26 November 2013

INFO SESSIONS FOR SOUTH COAST ESTUARY FISHERMAN

The NSW Government will hold a series of information sessions next week for South Coast commercial estuary fishermen as part of efforts to improve and enhance safety in the industry.

WorkCover NSW, Fisheries NSW, Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) as well as industry representatives will visit the key estuary fishing areas of Eden, Bermagui, Narooma and Bateman's Bay to provide advice, support and assistance to local fishermen.

Minister for Finance and Services and Member for Bega Andrew Constance said the information sessions were being held following the tragic death of a commercial estuary fisherman at Coila Lake north of Narooma in June, which reinforced the risks and challenges associated with working in the industry.

"The commercial estuary fishing industry continues to face a number of challenges in relation to the management of fish stocks as well as estuary health," Mr Constance said.

"The NSW Government wants to ensure that fishermen fully consider the safety risks when crewing their boats and know how to seek assistance from authorities to address these risks, so that their lives are not put in danger.

"Every worker in this State should come home safely at the end of the working day and next week's information sessions will provide the opportunity for local commercial estuary fishermen to learn more about safe work practices and where they can go for assistance on how to improve safety.

"Fishers will also get the opportunity to talk to their local Fisheries, RMS and WorkCover officers."

Mr Constance said all fishers that attend an information session may qualify for a \$500 Small Business Rebate from WorkCover NSW.

"A safe business is a sustainable one; however finding the money for a safety improvement can be a challenge for a small business owner," Mr Constance said.

"The Small Business Rebate covers a broad range of safety solutions and can be used to address manual handling, slips, trips and falls, injuries from moving objects, and specific industry items such as Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons."

A newsletter titled '*Working Safely in Commercial Estuary Fishing*' will be distributed to all licensed commercial estuary general fishermen in NSW to ensure they have the information and support they need to work safely.

NSW Government Commercial Estuary Fishing Information Sessions:

10am – 1pm, Tuesday, 3 December, Eden Fisherman's Club, 175 Imlay Street, Eden

10am – 1pm, Wednesday, 4 December, Bermagui Country Club Tuross Street, Bermagui

2pm – 5pm, Wednesday, 4 December, Club Narooma, 88 Princes Highway, Narooma

10am – 1pm, Thursday, 5 December, Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Beach Road,
Batemans Bay

1pm – 4pm, Friday, 6 December, Chifley Hotel Wollongong, 60-62 Harbour Street,
Wollongong

Further information on the WorkCover NSW Small Business Rebate is available at
www.workcover.nsw.gov.au