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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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**NOTICE TO RIVER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS RE: PHASING OUT OF
OPERA HOUSE YABBY POTS**

I am writing to advise that the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is currently pursuing regulation amendments that if approved will prohibit the use of Opera house style Yabby pots in the River Fishery from 1 July 2023.

This position has been taken as Opera house style Yabby pots are considered to pose an unacceptable risk to air-breathing animals such as native Rakali (Water Rats), Platypus and freshwater Tortoises. Pending the outcome of the proposed regulation amendments, consistent with the steps taken in other jurisdictions, Yabby pots (Opera house) will no longer be a lawful fishing device from 1 July 2023.

In order to implement the proposed arrangements, it is intended that the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* and *Fisheries Management (Lakes and Coorong Fishery) Regulations 2009* will be amended to remove the reference to Yabby pots, which will make Yabby pots an unlawful device in South Australia, including in the River Fishery. Yabby pots registered on River Fishery licences would not be able to be lawfully used by licence holders from 1 July 2023.

As an alternative to using Yabby pots, River Fishery licence holders will be given the opportunity to have Pyramid nets registered on their licence, with the number of Pyramid nets that may be registered being equivalent to the number of Yabby pots registered on their fishing licence. The transition to using pyramid nets is not compulsory but the use of Yabby pots will not be provided for in any fishery under the proposed arrangements.

The transition to the registration of Pyramid nets will be considered upon receipt of an application from the licence holder pursuant to section 54(7)(d) of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. The decision to approve the registration of pyramid nets on a licence will take into account whether or not the licence holder is also making an application for the revocation of the same number of Yabby pots from the same licence.

The process of providing the opportunity to register Pyramid nets and remove Yabby pots from River Fishery licences will commence as soon as possible following finalisation of the amendments regulations.

Should you have any further queries in regard to this matter please contact Mr Steve Shanks, Manager - Commercial Fisheries on (08) 8429 0197.

Prof Gavin Begg
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**