



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Our ref: eA203461
Obj ID: A7071332
Receipt: 21810540

The Hon Dr Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

centofanti.office@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Dr Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries on 23 July 2025 requesting access to the following:

“A copy of all correspondence including hardcopy or electronic letters, emails, memos, etc between the Minister for Primary Industries, and/or the Minister’s Advisors and the Federal Minister for Environment and Water and/or their Ministerial Advisors regarding the Algal Bloom currently affecting the South Australian coast and marine environment.”

Timeframe: 15/01/2025 to 17/07/2025

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located one document and one file note to self that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Letter from Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry dated 17/7/2025 re Algal Bloom.	2

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following information is **granted**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2	File note – timeline: Conversation between Meagan Spencer, Chief of Staff and Bella Fountain, Senior Advisor, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Fisheries Advisor), Minister Collins on 07/07/25 Conversation between Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on 16/07/25	1

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Logs.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Francesca Blefari on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

2 / 9 / 2025

eA203402



Government
The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Ms Julie Collins
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: Minister.Collins@aff.gov.au

Dear Ms Collins

Julie,

As you are aware, a naturally occurring, harmful algal bloom (HAB) is currently having a devastating impact on the South Australian marine environment and coastline. The bloom has been driven by a marine heatwave – with sea temperatures approximately 2.5°C warmer than average – combined with calm conditions, light winds and small swells.

Other potential contributing factors include nutrient influx from the Murray River floods in the summer of 2022-23 (estimated at over 100GL discharge a day for several months) and an unprecedented intense and extended seasonal upwelling event in the summer of 2023-24 (one of the longest on record) which brought nutrient-rich water and increased productivity to the surface and our coastal ecosystems.

This unprecedented HAB has caused extensive marine mortalities and widespread disruption to commercial fisheries and aquaculture operations in South Australia.

Discussions have been occurring for a number of weeks between State and Commonwealth jurisdictional officials to understand the impact HAB is having on our coastal and marine communities along with any available Commonwealth support.

Many operators in the Marine Scalefish Fishery have experienced declines in catch and economic viability, particularly in Gulf St Vincent, Kangaroo Island, and the Yorke Peninsula. Oyster growers and pipi harvesters have also been affected, as well as some charter boat operations and fisheries near the River Murray mouth and Lakes and Coorong.

The Government of South Australia is taking action by providing immediate, backdated fee relief for commercial fishers, aquaculture and charter boat operators impacted by the HAB, which will equate to an estimated \$500,000 worth of fee relief. The State Government has also established a HAB taskforce to coordinate its response and a reference group to help industries and stakeholders respond and recover from the HAB's impacts.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



As you are aware, the Commonwealth Government's Farm Household Allowance program offers assistance to eligible commercial-scale farmers who are experiencing financial hardship for any reason. Currently aquaculturists such as oyster growers are eligible for this support, however wild catch fishers are not. Similarly, criteria for low interest loans available to commercial scale farm businesses through the Rural Investment Corporation include aquaculturists but preclude wild catch fishers.

Following preliminary discussions between the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Department of Primary Industries and Regions, I am writing to you to formally request and advocate urgent consideration by the Federal Government of appropriate changes to the eligibility criteria for these two schemes to allow much needed support for South Australia's wild catch fishers affected by the HAB. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this request in further detail at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

17 / 07 / 2025

Spencer, Meagan (PIRSA)

Subject: eA203402 - Minister Scriven Correspondence
Attachments: eA203402 - Minister Scriven Correspondence.pdf

From: PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2025 5:16 PM
To: Minister.Collins@aff.gov.au
Subject: eA203402 - Minister Scriven Correspondence

MPIRD ref: eA203402

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven.

Kind regards,

Office of the Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
Government of South Australia | 1 King William Street, Adelaide
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8226 2931 | **E:** Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



File note - timeline:
• Meagan - conversation with Bella Fountain, Fisheries Adviser, Min Collins 7/7/2025.
• Clare spoke with Julie Collins 16/7/25
- Both conversations re - algal bloom support needed from the Commonwealth.



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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