



Our ref: 2006-600238

13 February 2007

Mr Graham Short
WA Fishing Industry Council Inc
PO Box 55
MOUNT HAWTHORN WA 6915

Dear Mr Short,

I am writing to update you on our progress with your complaint regarding the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

We have been in contact with the ATO, which has indicated it will soon be making available a discussion paper on employer/contractor crew issues for distribution to various industry stakeholders and this office.

We understand that the paper will form the basis of the ATO's approach in relation to the interpretation of employer/contractor roles for 2007, and is intended to revise, clarify and elaborate upon (some of) the views set out in the letter of 14 June 2006, particularly in relation to the various types of fishing industry operations and arrangements. We expect that the paper will also set out the procedure for seeking a private ruling where industry members seek more certainty as to their individual tax circumstances.

While we hope that the ATO will have regard to some of our observations arising from your complaint, we cannot guarantee that all of the WA Fishing Industry Council's (WAFIC) concerns will have been addressed - at this point in time we have yet to see the paper's content, and there are limits on what we can do. Nor can we positively assert that we will be given an advance copy and invited to make remedial comments before the paper is finalized. However, upon receipt, we will consider its content and pursue relevant action as required. For example - it may be that further discussion with the ATO will be required to clarify some issues.

We will, of course, continue to keep WAFIC apprised of our progress on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rohan Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

Rohan Anderson
Director of Investigations, Tax