Question 6: What are the industry subsectors most likely to be affected by the proposed winding back of grandfathering arrangements?

I operate in the Burdekin area in the C1 inshore mud crab fishery and the inshore component of the N2 fishery. (rivers, creeks and foreshores in sheltered bays) These fisheries would be significantly affected. These fisheries are low risk and operate along side recreational crafts who have no safety standards whatsoever. We all operate in sheltered waters.

Question 7: What is the nature of the impacts that these subsectors are likely to experience? For example, survey costs, costs of upgrades to vessels, costs of upgrading crew competencies, difficulties finding crew with requisite competencies, etc.

The biggest cost to these small inshore fisheries (C1 & N2) will be the upgrade and replacement of vessels.

Question 8: What form/s of targeted support do you consider would be effective in assisting the DCV fleet impacted by the phased withdrawal of grandfathering arrangements

I agree, the Australian Government should make available financial support to upgrade or replace Grandfathered boats. This should be similar to what the Government has provided to farmers to install solar panels to run irrigation pumps.

If introduced to the fishing industry, this would stimulate employment in regional towns to the locally owned fiberglass, aluminium repair and boat building businesses. These businesses have been impacted by Covid over the last couple of years.

As the vessels I am using now have been doing the jobs sufficiently, this financial assistance could be based on a 50/50 cost basis. This would appeal to me as a small inshore operator enabling me to bring my vessels up to a more safety standard at a reduced cost.