



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

23 October 2020

Michael Starkey
President, Australian Trade Fishing Association

The Hon Bob Baldwin
Independent Chair, Australian Trade Fishing Association

Via email: bobbaldwin@afta.net.au

2020 Queensland state election - policy priorities

Dear Michael and Bob,

Thank you for your email of 21 September 2020, outlining the Australian Trade Fishing Association's (ATFA's) priorities for the 2020 Queensland state election.

For your reference, the **Queensland Greens election platform for the 2020 State Election is online at:** <https://greens.org.au/qld/plan>. Our long-standing broader policy platform is here: <https://greens.org.au/qld/policies>.

The Queensland Greens support a significant investment into government services and infrastructure as part of Queensland's COVID-19 recovery. We have a fully costed plan to create thousands of good secure jobs and fully fund health, education and public infrastructure funded by making big mining corporations, banks and developers pay their fair share in tax.

As I'm sure you would understand, if the Greens find ourselves in a balance-of-power scenario there is an enormous list of competing priorities, and the final decision on any negotiated outcome rests with the party as a whole. [Our Plan](#) sets out what our priorities would be.

We note you are seeking commitments in relation to the following items, and are happy to respond as follows:

1. AFTA Trade Show

The Greens support a \$25,000 contribution for education on responsible fishing practices at the ATFA Trade Show, on the basis that it comes from an existing budget item available for such purposes.

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2. Education - Recreational Fishing's Future

The Greens have a [plan to fully fund education](#) in Queensland. We would support a similar trial of the recreational fishing education program to that which has occurred in New South Wales. Future government funding would depend on the success of the program.

3. Let's Fish Queensland

The Greens support your proposal for 'Let's Fish Queensland' to be trialled on a similar basis to the educational program mentioned above, with government funding dependent on the success of the program.

4. Fisheries management

The Greens [federal](#) and [state](#) policies on fisheries management are available at the links provided, and we support:

- Appointing a fisheries management advisory committee with members from the recreational, commercial, fishing, tourism and Indigenous fishing sectors to oversee the planning and implementation of all fisheries management frameworks and harvest strategies.
- Establishing a ministerial recreational fishing advisory committee to report to the relevant minister on specific issues relating to the recreational fishing sector.
- Legislating a sustainable fisheries strategy and reforms with regard to commercial inshore net, crab and trawl fisheries.

5. Marine parks and net-free zones

The Greens support net-free zones (NFZs) and will commit to no boundary changes which are made solely to accommodate increased commercial fishing effort. We will give consideration to increasing the number of NFZs, including near the Moreton Bay Marine Park. We are open to reviewing the allotted netting exemption from Yellow Zone in the Sandy Straits Marine Park, and can commit to a no lock-out, threat- and risk-based approach to marine park management, including for new Queensland marine parks.

6. Bag limits and closure

The Greens support an evidence-based approach to fishing closures, fishing competitions, commercial quotas, bag limits and other fishing rules. We are not in a position to commit to relaxing the limits mentioned in your letter without further review.

7. Lightweight crab pots

I have not had the advantage of past engagement on this issue, but in general our position favours more stringent protections for the marine environment even where the evidence is uncertain, in line with the precautionary principle.

8. Queensland Recreational Fishing Grants Program

The Queensland Greens are open to maintaining existing funding levels for recreational fishing facilities and infrastructure, and will work with the sector to ensure this is distributed according to best practice.

9. Artificial reefs and fish-aggregating devices (FADs)

While I have not had the advantage of any prior engagement on this issue, we do not support re-opening 'wreck' reefs to recreational fishing, but are open to expanding the current FAD program by reallocating existing funding.

10. Fishing licence/compulsory registration

If elected, the Greens would work with the sector to ascertain whether a recreational fishing licence, or registration, would be appropriate. We do not commit to freezing the Stocked Impounded Permit Scheme (SIPS) fee, but we believe fees for government services should increase generally in line with inflation.

Thank you again for sharing your priorities with us.

I hope that this information is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP