



## TASFISH RESPONSE: SECURING OUR FISHING FUTURE

We appreciate you sharing your priorities outlined in "Securing Our Fishing Future" for the upcoming Tasmanian State Election. As representatives of the Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party, we are deeply committed to advocating for the interests of recreational fishers and fostering a sustainable and thriving fishing future for Tasmania.

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party of Tasmania is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest political party in the state and our statewide candidates are committed to serving their community with real solutions. They respect and understand recreational sea fishers inject over \$160 million into regional communities and fresh water fishers inject similar economic value, social and health benefits into these communities too. This is on top of an important commercial fishing and aquaculture industry for regional and rural Tasmanian communities.

Below are our responses to your key priorities:

### **Ensuring Access to Recreational Fishing:**

We stand behind the explicit recognition of recreational fishers in legislation, ensuring their rights and interests are upheld in all relevant decisions.

Advocating for a review of sand flathead management settings and supporting relaxation of restrictions once stock reaches recovery targets.

We would like to see an initial government investment of \$2million in sand flathead recovery and an additional \$2million start up funds into an effective estuary perch breeding and release program.

We are committed to improving inland fishing and in the restoration and improvement of our once world class trout fishery. We would like to see the hatchery brought back in-house to facilitate not only a sustainable trout fishery but also to introduce a breeding program for the estuary perch which are currently only in Arthurs River. We would like to see an effective perch program to reintroduce these perch into other estuaries. This will require cooperation and a proper IFS 10 year strategic plan.

We are supportive to expedite resource sharing agreements for various species and safeguarding access to emerging species for recreational fishers.

### **Enhancing Safety and Enforcement of Fishing Rules:**

Endorsing investments in webcams at boat ramps and weather buoys to bolster safety and informed decision-making for fishers.

Working towards increasing compliance checks and providing support to marine police to curb illegal fishing activities.



## **Making Fishing More Accessible:**

Pledging investments in recreational fishing infrastructure, including public toilets, all-ability access platforms, and walking tracks to improve accessibility for all Tasmanians.

Supporting adjustments to group fishing rules to accommodate older and mobility-impaired individuals and implementing a participation program to assist older Tasmanians in fishing.

## **Improving Fishing Opportunities:**

Committing to investing in stock enhancement opportunities, such as restocking programs and expanding fish aggregating devices, to enhance recreational fishing experiences.

Allocating funding to assist recreational fishers in reducing their impact through initiatives like tackle-bin programs and fish cleaning stations.

## **Advocating for Recreational Fishers:**

Allocating funding directly from the Fish Wise Fund, with additional government funding to bolster TARFish's leadership and representation for the recreational fishing sector, including managing statewide programs.

## **Valuing Recreational Fishers and the Tasmanian Community:**

Supporting the establishment of a Recreational Fishing Trust administered by an independent board to finance research, sustainability initiatives, and support for recreational fishing without imposing additional licensing fees, while ensuring existing fees remain unchanged for a minimum of three years.

Committing funding to support quality research and stock assessments under the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration.

Additionally, endorsing the removal of inactive, non-transferable commercial fishing licenses to promote efficiency and sustainability in the fishing industry.

We sincerely appreciate your dedication to securing the future of recreational fishing in Tasmania. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with you to achieve these vital objectives.

Sincerely,

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