

## **Hon Vincent Tarzia MP**

Leader of the Opposition

## **Tim Whetstone MP**

Shadow Minister for Recreation and Racing

## **Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC**

Shadow Minister for Primary Industries  
and Regional South Australia

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## **A ‘reel’ boost through Sports Voucher program**

A new Liberal Government will expand the successful Sports Voucher program to allow families to use their vouchers to purchase eligible fishing equipment from South Australian retailers.

Forming part of Liberal's *Save Our Seas* plan, families will be able to use their voucher to buy essential fishing equipment valued up to \$100 from a registered local provider.

Leader of the Opposition, Vincent Tarzia, said encouraging more young South Australians to take up fishing is essential to rebuilding and sustaining the sector.

“Expanding this voucher scheme to include purchases of fishing equipment would help young people get started in recreational fishing and support a sector hit hard by the devastating algal bloom,” Mr Tarzia said.

“The algal bloom has decimated our coastal communities and associated businesses, and this is a practical measure to get more people fishing while boosting the industry.”

Shadow Minister for Recreation and Racing, Tim Whetstone added that recreational fishing delivers enormous economic benefits for South Australia, particularly for our coastal towns and communities who rely on tourism and the activity it brings.

“If we want a strong, sustainable fishing sector for years to come, we need to get the next generation involved in recreational fishing now and our plan will aid this process,” Mr Whetstone said.

“At the moment, less than half of all Sports Vouchers are used, meaning there is capacity in the budget to extend the program.

“There also aren't any fishing clubs currently registered with the Sports Voucher scheme, and this initiative would encourage them to do so.

“We need to be doing everything we can to help people with a passion for fishing return to this much-loved activity, and this is a targeted way to do that.”

Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Regional South Australia, Nicola Centofanti added, “We want the next generation to feel excited about fishing, to see a future in the industry, and to experience what so many South Australians love - getting out on the water, feeling the tug on the line, and learning the value of caring for our environment.

“There’s nothing better than seeing kids outdoors, enjoying nature, and connecting with the incredible environment we’re lucky to have. Strong, sustainable fisheries ensure that today’s young anglers can become tomorrow’s leaders in our seafood sector.”

Eligible equipment will be limited to fishing rods, reels, line and tackle up to a total value of \$100. Businesses will be required to register as a Sports Voucher provider for families to be able to make a claim.