

## **Hon Vincent Tarzia MP**

Leader of the Opposition

## **Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC**

Shadow Minister for Primary Industries  
and Regional South Australia

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### **Libs will restore confidence to fishing industry**

A new Liberal Government will deliver a \$21 million voluntary fisheries buyback scheme to restore confidence in the commercial fishing industry decimated by the algal bloom.

The scheme will also assist with conservation and sustainability within our oceans by letting fish populations rebuild faster.

Under the plan, commercial fishers who are currently being impacted by environmental events such as the harmful algal bloom will be able to voluntarily exit the industry with fair, transparent valuations.

Leader of the Opposition, Vincent Tarzia, said the scheme would be designed alongside industry, ensuring it reflects their daily operations, supports long-term sustainability, and strengthens the viability of those who choose to remain in fishery.

“We want to ensure those who are ready to leave the industry can do so with dignity, while those who remain have a viable industry into the future,” Mr Tarzia said.

“Fishers have been left without a clear path forward and without certainty, this policy begins to rebuild that certainty.

“Labor has been slow to implement this change, while industry has been pleading for action.

“Instead of wasting time on feasibility studies, we have today committed to working directly with the sector to accelerate voluntary buybacks to give fishers a genuine, fair and practical pathway forward.”

The package also includes independent reviews of the adjustment process at two, five and 10 years, with the option for further voluntary buybacks if needed and the ability to reallocate quota if stocks recover.

Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Regional South Australia, Nicola Centofanti, said the policy has been shaped in partnership with industry from day one.

“These buybacks are entirely voluntary and will be built on fairness and transparency,” Dr Centofanti said.

“This is a targeted structural adjustment that strengthens long-term viability for remaining operators, while protecting and rebuilding fish stocks.

“The scheduled reviews are a responsible measure to ensure that the scheme remains effective, transparent and accountable, while delivering the intended outcomes.”

Dr Centofanti concluded that this policy is about reducing the number of fish taken from our oceans so that stocks can recover in our oceans, whilst ensuring that our commercial fishers are fairly compensated.

Fishers who take up the option of a voluntary buyback will also have first rights to re-enter the industry when fish stocks recover, if they are able.

A separate independent review will be commissioned into marine scalefish stock research to ensure decisions are driven by robust, modern science.