

# David O'BYRNE

*Independent for Franklin*

Jane Galichan, Chief Executive Officer,  
Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your email of February 23 and the election statement *Securing Our Fishing Future*.

I am running as an independent, and if re-elected, hope to use my influence to ensure that the next State Government is guided by good policy and the over-arching objective of improving the quality of life for all Tasmanians. In this context I recognise the importance of recreational fishing as a feature of the Tasmanian way of life regularly enjoyed by over 100,000 people.

I have reviewed the TARfish statement and believe the measures recommended are balanced and well considered. I support a review of sand flathead settings in 2025 (and a relaxation of restrictions when stocks have recovered), a prohibition on further commercial expansion for emerging species such as snapper, King George whiting and yellowtail kingfish to give recreational fishers priority, and commercial exclusions around Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs). And I see merit in entrenching recreational fishing rights in any new or amended legislation, and removing inactive and non-transferable commercial licences.

I understand the thinking behind no further restrictions on recreational rock lobster fishing and the suggestion that 90 tonnes or 50% of total allowable rock lobster in the East Coast Stock Rebuild Zone be set aside as recreational catch. And I support the ongoing translocation of rock lobster on the East Coast.

Additional funding for marine police and authorising fisheries officers to conduct compliance checks at boat ramps, jetties and other selected locations will help to preserve the integrity of the recreational sector. And the recommended \$3million investment in toilet facilities, all ability access and tracks/trails to fishing spots, combined with the suggested investment in waste bins and cleaning stations, will improve equity and reduce the environmental impact of waste.

The long term health of the both the recreational and commercial sectors depends on stock enhancement and recovery – and on this basis there are compelling reasons to support the recommendation for \$5 million in the restocking of sand flathead and the installation of additional FADs, and the maintenance and expansion of the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration program.

The suggestion to establish a Recreational Fishing Trust Account with funding from the FishWise Fund, from commercial fishing resource royalties and a possible aquaculture expansion levy is an innovative policy initiative with the potential to provide ongoing

funding support and a greater sense of ownership and responsibility amongst recreational fishers.

Against this backdrop I do not support a salt water rod and line fishing licence.

I recognise important advocacy and policy role of TARfish, its strategic leadership and its role in managing the FADs program and consider an additional \$1.25 million in funding over three years to be very modest. If I have the privilege of being re-elected I look forward to working closely with TARfish to make sure the voice of recreational fishing is heard in the next State Parliament.

Kind regards,



David O'Byrne

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