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The Hon. Bob Baldwin
Independent Chair
Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA)

bobbaldwin@afta.net.au

Dear Hon. Bob Baldwin

Thank you for sharing your Policy Submission on Recreational Fishing in WA with me and for providing the opportunity to share the Greens (WA)'s positions on the issues you've raised.

As we are a minor party, our election platform is focussed on high-priority, principles based commitments to push the next State Government to act on. In the next State Parliament, The Greens (WA) will prioritise pursuing our platform. However, The Greens (WA) position on issues affecting recreational fishing will be informed by the aims, measures, and underlying principles of [our policies](#). Of particular relevance is our [Marine & Coastal](#) policy which states (in part):

“The coastal and marine zone of Western Australia comprises an interplay of ecosystems and dynamic coastal processes. Many reef, sea grass, and mangrove ecosystems, bays, estuaries and islands are of outstanding ecological importance. These natural assets are under increased pressure from human activities and should be protected with a comprehensive, adequate and representative marine reserve system.

Marine and coastal fisheries are important economic and recreational resources, dependent on healthy ecosystems. Both wild fisheries and aquaculture systems should be managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

(...)

Planning, development and management of the coastal zone should be based on the most up to date climate science and should take account of interactions between changing coastal environment and built infrastructure. Decisions should place ecosystem health and public interest before private interests.”

In relation to off-shore wind, the evidence is clear – WA needs to rapidly invest in large-scale wind as part of the necessary transition from coal. The Greens (WA) firmly support investment in renewables, noting however that the State Government urgently needs a renewable energy plan to provide a framework for ensuring renewable energy projects are properly located and built to an appropriate scale. Renewable energy projects (including off-shore wind-farms) must be subject to rigorous planning and environmental assessments to maximise community and environmental benefits.

At a federal level The Australian Greens want the management of recreational and commercial fisheries under a national framework to maintain sustainable fish populations and fisheries, and to minimise negative environmental impacts of fishing. They also want an evidence-based strategy to establish and maintain adequate, representative and comprehensive marine sanctuaries in all marine bio-regions for the conservation of marine biodiversity, fish nursery habitat and fish stocks, supported by a comprehensive marine habitat mapping system. You can read more about The Australian Greens policy on Marine and Coastal Areas and Fisheries [here](#).

We certainly support any policy suggestions that promote participatory democracy and stakeholder consultation, further research and decisions backed by evidence based science and best practice, and sustainable management measures that ensure the replenishment of fishing stocks. After the election we hope to increase our representation in the Legislative Council and would welcome a meeting with AFTA to discuss your policy submission in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Pettitt', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC
Member for South Metropolitan

Unfortunately we can't respond to your request at the granular level you're seeking. This is due to several reasons, including that we won't know The Greens (WA)'s role in the next Parliament or the levers available to us to influence the next Government's legislative agenda and decision-making until after the election, and there isn't enough time to undertake necessary consultation with other stakeholders and the Party's own membership (as a grass-roots organisation, our policies and election platforms are determined by membership through robust democratic processes).

The Greens (WA) agree the development of policies and plans impacting the recreational fishing sector must be transparent, science-based, and informed by engagement with relevant communities, groups, organisations, and knowledge holders. We also recognise that adequate conservation and sustainable management measures which ensure the replenishment of fishing stocks are critical to the long-term health of the recreational fishing sector.

We therefore offer in-principle support to evidence based actions which a

inclusive, peer-reviewed science. Effective development plans require input from our community, industry partners, organisations, and tourism operators. A thriving recreational fishing sector depends on great fishing experiences, which are influenced by several policy settings and investment decisions.

The Greens (WA) are committed to an energy future that produces and utilised energy in the most efficient and environmentally sustainable way, this includes applying the precautionary principle to all planning, development and management decisions in relation to the marine environment.

You can read more about our state policies for Marine & Coastal, Environmental Protection, and Energy [here](#).