

WA Liberal's policies in relation to fisheries

SINGLE FISHING LICENCE

The WA Liberal Party will set aside the bureaucracy surrounding fishing licences in Western Australia.

Instead of requiring six separate licences for individual fishing activities (e.g., freshwater angling, abalone, etc.), there will be a single Recreational Fishing Licence.

This comprehensive licence will remain priced at \$40 per person, consistent with the current RFBL cost.

The simplification of licensing requirements will be developed through community and industry consultation, ensuring that essential data traditionally gathered through registrations continues to be collected effectively.

STANDALONE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

The WA Liberals will establish a standalone Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, ensuring a stronger whole-of-department focus on those portfolios.

The portfolios currently fit inside the large Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), with significant concerns that the Department's regional development focus has sidelined the other portfolios DPIRD administers.

This change effectively reverses Labor's machinery-of-government changes in 2017.

URGENT REVIEW OF ALL MARINE PARK DECISIONS

A WA Liberal Government will commission an urgent review of every marine park decision made by the Cook Labor Government.

Over the last 8 years, WA Labor has sought to expand marine parks across the state, with a large expansion to the Marmion Marine Park and the creation of the South Coast Marine Park.

Iconic recreation, marine and fishing areas across the state are being declared off-limits, without greater discussion of how to balance industry concerns with conservation.

Many in the recreational and commercial fishing industries worry that the South Coast Marine Park could be the first step to an even larger expansion to marine parks in the South West region.

Our review will be focused on improving access for locals to the areas they have fished for decades with their families, while basing marine conservation on scientific evidence.

This will allow for a future plan to better serve both the industries and community, as well as address best-practice conservation.

GEOGRAPHE BAY OFFSHORE WIND FARM

The WA Liberals strongly oppose the proposed offshore wind farm off Geographe Bay on the South Coast of Western Australia.

This project threatens local marine life, ecosystems, and Ramsar-listed migratory bird habitats.

Our coastline is a vital migration corridor for humpback whales, providing critical areas for nursing, resting, and breeding.

The South West is home to unique natural assets, and we have a responsibility to protect them.

Beyond the environmental risks, this project could severely impact local fishers and tackle shop owners who rely on healthy fish stocks and access to traditional fishing grounds.

Recreational and commercial fishing play a vital role in the local economy, supporting jobs and small businesses across the region.

This wind farm risks undermining our coastline, ocean reefs, wildlife, and the industries that depend on them - key pillars of our tourism and fishing economy.

If elected, a Mettam Liberal Government will do everything in its power to stop this unnecessary development.

CRAY FISHING INDUSTRY

The WA Liberals are committed to securing the future of the state's iconic cray fishing industry, ensuring certainty for fishing families and protecting thousands of regional jobs.

After years of inaction from WA Labor, our advocacy has forced the Government to finally support fishing families, but they should never have been left in limbo in the first place.

The cray fishing industry is a \$400 million export powerhouse, supporting generations of hardworking families across WA's coastline.

A Mettam Liberal Government are committed to:

1. Fixing the number of units in Individual Transferable Quota fisheries, so these units cannot be created or destroyed once a number is fixed;

2. Extending the minimum term for fishing licenses to be 5+5 years in line with normal commercial arrangements, enabling commercial fishers to get on with their job unencumbered by red tape; and
3. Establishing an electronic register of unit entitlements that financial institutions can rely on, to assist with sovereign risk issues.

These reforms will remove red tape and allow businesses to invest and grow with confidence.

Unlike Labor, the WA Liberals will always stand with small businesses, regional communities, and local fishing families. We are committed to delivering policies that back industry, create jobs, and secure WA's future.