



## SENATOR THE HON JONNO DUNIAM

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries  
Assistant Minister for Industry Development  
Deputy Manager of Government Business in the Senate  
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

Ref: MS22-000503

Mr Russell Conway  
Executive Officer  
Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation  
PO Box 118  
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600

5 APR 2022

[russell.conway@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:russell.conway@justice.vic.gov.au)

Dear Mr Conway

I am writing to inform you that the National Fisheries Plan has now been released.

I thank ARFF's constructive and collaborative engagement in the development of this significant plan for the sustainable growth and development of Australia's fishing, aquaculture and seafood community. The establishment of a framework to support all sectors with opportunities to grow, innovate and adapt to new challenges is an achievement that we should all be proud of.

We carefully considered all feedback received through our consultation processes and aimed to represent the aspirations of all sectors in this final version. In response to recreational fisher feedback, the National Fisheries Plan includes a specific priority area about recognising the economic and social benefits of recreational fishing, which outlines initiatives aimed to promote Australia as a great recreational fishing destination.

I have also enclosed a copy of the Plan for your reference, and it is also available on my department's website at [awe.gov.au/national-fisheries-plan](http://awe.gov.au/national-fisheries-plan).

My department will now establish a governance arrangement for all jurisdictions to work collaboratively with key fishing representative bodies such as Seafood Industry Australia, the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group and ARFF to develop an implementation framework that will guide the plan's execution to achieve its targets. Departmental officials will be in contact to seek your participation in this arrangement.

I look forward to working with ARFF as we seek to implement the National Fisheries Plan. I would be grateful if you could share this letter with ARFF members.

Yours sincerely

Jonno Duniam

Enc.



# SENATOR THE HON. JONNO DUNIHAM

SENATOR FOR **TASMANIA**

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT



Mr Russell Conway  
Chair  
Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation

[Russell.Conway@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:Russell.Conway@justice.vic.gov.au)

Dear Mr Conway

Thank you for your email of 1 May 2022 providing the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation's (ARFF) election requests document and checklist. I am pleased to provide you with the Coalition's policies for the recreational fishing sector.

The Morrison Government knows that when people fish there are significant economic and regional benefits – it boosts regional tourism, creates local jobs, and supports our small and family businesses. It is a part of the Australian way of life. That is why we are committed to supporting our recreational fishers, by ensuring they have access to our oceans, access to amenities, and access to key recreational stocks.

We are committed to ensuring recreational fishers have access to fishing locations across Australia. As you know, the Coalition has committed to maintaining our robust Australian Marine Park network in its current form. The South-east Marine Park networks are subject to a statutory review process in 2023, while the 2018 marine park plans will not be reviewed until 2028. Australia's recreational fishers have always been a critical stakeholder in these consultations, and I can assure you, the input of fishers will continue to be given careful consideration in future management planning processes. We will also continue to consult with fishers on policy matters that may impact on recreational fishing activities, such as the expansion of aquaculture in Commonwealth waters.

As you know, the Coalition has also committed to investing an additional \$20 million into the Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program. This investment will deliver more than 100 new and improved community facilities across Australia over the next four years. The expansion of this program will ensure more Australian's have the opportunity to enjoy going fishing.

A re-elected Morrison Government will also implement resource sharing agreements for key recreational species managed by the Commonwealth, and will assist in the design of principles of resource sharing allocation for stocks managed by jurisdictions through the National Fisheries Plan. This will provide balanced resource sharing between recreational, commercial and indigenous fishing, as was done with Southern Bluefin Tuna.

The Coalition is committed to implementing the National Fisheries Plan, to ensure its initiatives are met and outcomes are realised. The ARFF will play a key role in implementing the Plan, noting that priority five relates to recognition of the economic and social benefits of recreational fishing. This will provide the ARFF with the opportunity to directly participate in policy discussions with the Commonwealth, and the states and territories.

Since the 2019 election, the Morrison Government has delivered on a number of initiatives, many of which continue to be rolled out, that benefit the recreational fishing sector. The \$400,000 fishing representative capacity building program is helping recreational fishing representatives improve their ability to engage with Commonwealth and national fisheries advisory bodies. This program will continue to deliver capacity building tools until June 2023 to ensure that all relevant fishing sectors can maximise their contribution to fisheries decision making.



# SENATOR THE HON. **JONNO DUNIAM**

SENATOR FOR **TASMANIA**

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT



Our \$20 million Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program is supporting the delivery of 150 projects across the country. Of those projects, 100 directly relate to boating and fishing facilities, while the remaining 50 are for camping facilities or general amenity improvements, such as disability-accessible toilet blocks. The delivery of these projects will increase the accessibility to key fishing areas and deliver more fishing opportunities to the community.

A range of projects have commenced to restore marine and estuarine fisheries habitats under the \$8 million Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program. This program is being delivered by land service providers under the National Landcare Program in collaboration with local fishing clubs. Twenty-eight project agreements have been made with service providers from across Australia to support the delivery of projects to remove or modify barriers to fish passage, rehabilitation of riparian areas with structures to provide additional habitat, removal of exotic vegetation from waterways and bank stabilisation.

We also delivered \$900,000 to provide a three year extension of the highly successful Tuna Champions program, to further improve catch and release practices of recreational fishers and the handling of other key tuna species.

The implementation of these initiatives is helping to support more opportunities for all Australians to engage positively and sustainably in our diverse fisheries. The Coalition is committed to supporting our recreational fishing sector to ensure that Australians can continue to enjoy this great Australian pastime.

Only a re-elected Morrison Government can be trusted to support our recreational fishers.

Sincerely

Senator the Hon. Jonno Duniam  
**Liberal Senator for Tasmania**  
6 May 2022