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Fish Now, Fish Forever

Hon. Corey Wingard
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing
GPO Box 668, ADELAIDE SA 5001
MinisterWingard@sa.gov.au

25 August 2021

Dear Minister

RE: Your ref 21RECC0418. Eligibility of recreational fishing for sports and recreation grants

Thank you for your prompt reply to our letter of 29 June 2021, regarding the recognition of recreational fishing as a recreation/sport. Unfortunately, the response does little to clarify why fishing is not recognised by the SA government as a sport or recreation and merely refers to what some other states and the federal government do in their jurisdictions. Your reference to the Qld Recreational Fishing Grants Scheme has no relevance in SA, where the scheme was discontinued in March 2018.

We have examined the eligibility criteria for all ORSR grants programs and cannot identify any specific reference to the ineligibility of recreational fishing for funding and ask that you provide the documented policy of ORSR explaining why recreational fishing is excluded from these programs.

You refer to the \$390 million invested by the Marshall government in sport and active recreation programs in SA, yet we are unaware of what proportion was committed to specifically support SA's largest recreation - fishing; a detailed account of this would be appreciated.

We wish also to refer you to the comments of the Hon. Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, David Basham, on the 'All the gear but no idea' podcast, where he provides the following *"to me it is a sport but it doesn't need to be labelled as such just to get funding."* This statement appears to be contrary to the strategic vision and priorities of ORSR, who undertake a significant function in providing substantial funding to communities and sporting organisations.

We note that you now refer us to the 'Game On' program and therefore assume that recreational fishing qualifies for funding under this scheme. This advice varies from that previously provided by ORSR (see attached) and indicates that ORSR policy of not recognising recreational fishing for funding under this program changed sometime between 2 August 2021 and 11 August 2021, when you responded to our initial enquiry. Given this policy change, can you please confirm that

recreational fishing now also qualifies for funding from other ORSR programs including the Active Club Program, Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program, Grassroots Facilities Program and Regional and Districts Facilities Program Round and if not, why this is the case.

The SA government has a great opportunity to show some independent leadership on this matter by officially and publicly recognising SA's biggest recreational sector as an important stakeholder in the recreation and sport industry. It has already facilitated the development of The Recreational Fishing Strategy for SA (<https://www.mfac.org.au/news/new-recreational-fishing-strategy-unveiled>) which among many things, highlights the need for recognising recreational fishing as a recreation/sport and building partnerships with governments and stakeholders to achieve its strategic intent. Such support will provide a critical platform for the growth of the sector which already contributes substantial economic and social benefit to our state.

Yours sincerely



Mick Wilson
Chair

ATTACHMENT 1

From: ORSR:Grants <ORSR_Grants@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 2 August 2021 12:52 PM
To: leevansoest@bigpond.com
Subject: RE: Grant funding

OFFICIAL

Dear Lee

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately applications submitted in previous rounds by fishing clubs have been deemed ineligible.

Please note this is currently under review, whilst not likely to change for the round that will open this year, it is possible that changes will be made for round/s opening next year.

Grants SA are sometimes able to fund organisations that are not funded by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (however it is not known when their next round will open); you could also try your local Council.

Kind regards

Funding Services

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The general phone number for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing is **1300 714 990**



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing