



PO Box 3349 Norwood SA, 5067

Mob : 0400 774 447

E: ed@recfishsa.org.au

Fish Now, Fish Forever

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

29 June 2021

Dear Minister

RE: Eligibility of recreational fishing for sports and recreation grants

The Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing recently advertised the availability of grants for infrastructure projects under the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program 21-22, Grassroots Facilities Program Round 2 and Regional and Districts Facilities Program Round 2.

Upon making enquiries about these grants, RecFish SA was informed that recreational fishing does not qualify for funding from the South Australian Office of Recreation and Sport, as it is not recognised by government as a legitimate sport or recreation. Clearly, this policy is quite ridiculous, given that over 277,000 South Australians go fishing at least once a year, making it the largest recreation in the state. Further, organised recreational fishing competitions and sportfishing events attract thousands of participants and bring substantial economic and social benefits to the regions. It beggars's belief that recreational fishing is not recognised by your department as a legitimate sport or recreation which qualifies for grant funding when baton twirling is; surely this must be addressed.

On several occasions, the Marshall government has publicly heralded the value of recreational fishing and has reformed its representative structure to ensure it is better supported by government in achieving its growth goals. Government support for recreational fishing must extend to officially recognising it as a legitimate sport or recreation, so that it can qualify for grant funding from your department.

Yours sincerely

Mick Willson
Chair