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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](mailto:MinisterWingard@sa.gov.au)

5 October 2021

Dear Minister

**RE: Your ref 21RECO418. Eligibility of recreational fishing for sports and recreation grants**

We again thank you for your prompt and informative response to our letter regarding acknowledgement of recreational fishing as an active recreation and/or sport. We are particularly grateful that you have clarified the definitions of sport and active recreation, which we believe further supports our claim that recreational fishing must be recognised by ORSR under one, or both, of these descriptions.

We wish to refer you to contemporary research information which clearly demonstrates that recreational fishing closely aligns with the description of sport and active recreation which you have provided (<http://www.nationalrecsurvey.com.au/evidence-from-other-studies/> ). A diagrammatic summary is provided below.



Perhaps most perplexing element of this matter is that while you continue to deny that recreational fishing should be acknowledged as a sport or active recreation, your department continues to support other social activities which can't compare to recreational fishing as an active recreation. It is quite baffling that ORSR would recognise darts as a sport/active recreation but then deny the same acknowledgement for fishing. And while we believe darts is a fantastic activity for many people, surely hiking along a beach or canoeing along the River Murray with friends or family to get to a favourite fishing spot, encapsulates a far greater level of physical exertion and delivers much greater health and well-being benefits than throwing darts.

As the peak community body for recreational fishing in SA, we can provide you with an account of our proud history of undertaking projects to deliver active recreation opportunities to South Australians. Many of our foundation members are sportfishing and angling clubs and organisations who actively participate in recreational fishing competitions which regularly attract numerous competitors. And one need only look at the reservoir development program, which the current government has so ably championed, to see that it was built on the back of our successful 45-year campaign to open reservoirs for fishing and canoeing. Our past and present partnership programs with Nature Play and Reeling in Junior Anglers, strongly demonstrate our commitment to supporting more kids to participate in healthy outdoor recreation.

We appreciate that ORSR undertook a grants review in 2020 but our investigations have revealed that neither RecFish SA nor the Ministers Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) were engaged in this review. Not with standing, the pertinent issue is not the eligibility criteria for grants programs but the qualification of recreational fishing as a sport or active recreation.

This matter is a particularly high priority for RecFish SA and its 5,000 members and we will continue to pursue it until we reach a suitable outcome. To facilitate this, we ask that you direct officers from ORSR to engage with RecFish SA to discuss the process for achieving the recognition we seek.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick Wilson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mick Wilson  
Chair