

Fish Now, Fish Forever

A Vision for Recreational Fishing in SA

South Australia is a place that people are proud to call home, with world class fisheries and diverse angling opportunities

RecFish SA is the peak community recreational fishing organisation in SA and since 1975 we have worked tirelessly to achieve better fishing for SA's 277,000 recreational fishers. On 19 March 2022, we will have a state election and RecFish SA want to ensure that recreational fishers are given the acknowledgement and consideration they deserve.

Our pre-election manifesto [Fish Now, Fish Forever](#), which is available to view on our website, outlines initiatives and actions to improve the fishing experience for all South Australians and enable everyone who visits our state to enjoy our wonderful environments. [Fish Now, Fish Forever](#), proposes a suite of innovative measures that will dramatically improve recreational fishing opportunities in SA.

RecFish SA's role and the answers to our policy questions

With over 4000 members and 277,000 constituents from all walks of life, RecFish SA understand there is no "typical" recreational fisher. There are, however, a range of values and policy matters that are essential to supporting SA fisheries and to ensure high quality fishing experiences are maintained into the future.

Our approach has been to set out action plans across 4 key areas in our pre-election manifesto:

- Recreational fishing knowledge, information and communication
- Fish stocks, allocations and access
- Overall recreational fishing strategy
- Infrastructure and facilities

We sent this manifesto to the major parties contesting the 2022 South Australian election and asked them to comment. The responses received have been entered as direct quotes, written by the parties, into the tables of this document below. The full responses received are available on our website, along with links to the individual party policy papers.

This process has been designed to ensure political parties are aware of the policies needed to support recreational fishing and to inform recreational fishers where each party stands on the key issues. We will never tell people how to vote and we are committed to working with any future Government to ensure that our shared vision for a bright fishing future becomes a reality.

General



Response received 23 February 2022

Thank you for providing RecFish SA's Fish Now, Fish Forever blueprint for supporting recreational fishing in South Australia.

The Marshall Liberal Government has been delivering on the priorities of the state's 277,000 recreational fishers by opening reservoirs and new fishing opportunities, upgrading jetties and boat ramps, improving the long-term sustainability of fish stocks, modernising the recreational charter boat fishing sector and bringing recreational fishers together.

The recreational fishing sector is incredibly important to South Australia, providing significant economic, social and wellbeing benefits to the state and its regions. We have been encouraging South Australians to get out and explore our natural environment, visit parks and nature-based tourism opportunities, enjoy boating, camping and fishing experiences.

South Australia is geographically blessed with prime fishing grounds in our gulfs, open coastal waters and the River Murray. South Australia should have the nation's most vibrant recreational fishing sector but over 16 years of Labor administration, opportunities for the sector fell behind other states. When we were elected, the Government inherited:

- a recreational fishing sector that was divided and disjointed,



Response received 4 February 2022

We write in response to RecFish SA's paper Fish Now, Fish Forever - A Vision for Recreational Fishing in SA and further to our discussion about recreational fishing late in 2021.

Thank you to you and the RecFish SA Board members for your commitment to ensuring recreational fishing can be enjoyed by future generations in South Australia's beautiful natural environment.

As you are aware, on 26 January 2022, South Australian Labor announced their plan for recreational fishing. As part of our response, a copy of that plan is attached for sharing with recreational fishers.

<https://www.petermalinauskas.com.au/policies/recreational-fishing>

Thank you very much for RecFish's involvement in this announcement and for RecFish's indication of their support for our plan. We announced this plan because we value the role that recreational fishing plays in keeping so many South Australians active, healthy and engaged and the role that it plays in growing regional tourism and economies.

We are pleased to respond to your document and encourage you and the recreational fishing community to contact us if there are any matters that you would like us to further clarify.

We broadly agree-



Response received 15 February 2022

SA-BEST recognises the importance of a sustainable fishery for current and future generations. It also recognises our waters are one of our most important natural resources and the importance of balancing fairly the needs of the fishing sector with that of the environment. In order for this to be achieved, proactive collaboration between government and all fishing sectors is absolutely critical. It is SA-BEST's position that continued collaborations between the fishing sector and the environmental sector are equally as important.

South Australia's 277,000 or so recreational fishers are well placed to inform us what is needed to achieve this common goal.

Recreational fishing is much more than just an opportunity to catch dinner. With one in five people aged 16-85 struggling with a mental health issue in any given year, the profound benefits of recreational fishing to a person's health and wellbeing are as important as ever.

As crossbench members of the Legislative Council, we do not hold the purse strings. Nevertheless, we hold an impressive record of successful advocacy on behalf of constituents and stakeholder groups using the unique tools in our toolkit.

When it comes to the fishing industry as a whole, our track record speaks for itself. No political party

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a recreational fishing sector which had been cut off from other fishing stakeholders and scientists with Labor's abolition of the Fisheries Council, • loss of recreational fishing grounds due to Labor's controversial marine parks, • mismanagement of fish stocks under Labor resulting in depletion of garfish, snapper and northern zone rock lobster as well as forced closures imposed on fishing for King George whiting and Gulf St Vincent prawns, • a charter boat fishing sector in chronic decline with falling patronage, and • a huge backlog in boating and jetties infrastructure after years of under-investment. <p>Despite challenges to the State's economy caused by extreme bushfires, drought, COVID19 and global market disruption, the Government has tackled these challenges head-on.</p> <p>The Government has committed \$20 million for the upgrade of boat ramps and jetties across the state, from the South-East to the West Coast. The Government has opened our reservoirs to the community and to recreational fishing, as we recognise what an important community asset these facilities are. The Government also invested \$1.2 million to construct a new shellfish reef off Glenelg to grow fish stocks, boost tourism and improve water quality.</p> <p>To encourage further growth in recreational fishing, the Government called for and funded the development of a Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia. Development of the Strategy was led by the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) following extensive consultation with recreational fishers. This sector-led Strategy aims to deliver tangible outcomes to the recreational fishing community by building capacity and capability, supporting growth in the sector, enhancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with recognising the strong role that recreational fishing can play in driving growth in regional tourism and that South Australia has many recreational fishing opportunities to showcase across our state; and • that in order to capitalise on this role that recreational fishing can play that we must ensure that education about sustainable fish stocks is provided and that infrastructure that supports recreational fishing in the long term must be identified and invested in over time. <p>In relation to each of your actions and outcomes, we advise as follows:</p>	<p>has invested more time and effort working closely with representatives from across the fishing sector in order to understand what unites you, what divides you and what can best assist you, than SA-BEST. As discussed with some of your representatives in person, our team believes the fishing sector as a whole could benefit greatly from the establishment of an umbrella organisation/independent peak industry body armed with the task of advocating for the various sectors, including your own in a unified way.</p>
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	<p>knowledge and information and build strategic partnerships to expand opportunities. With members on the MRFAC, RecFish SA made a valuable contribution towards development of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Government has delivered on our election commitment to establish the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council as the peak body providing advice to government on recreational fishing matters. Establishment of the MRFAC has worked to bring the various recreational fishing interests and perspectives around the one table in a unified way to provide advice to government on priorities and matters of importance. In a first, the MRFAC comprises fishers who are directly elected by the wider South Australian recreational fishing public, sitting alongside the president of RecFish SA.</p> <p>The Government has also established a Seafood Advisory Forum, bringing together representatives of all key fishing sectors, scientists and stakeholders, including recreational fishers, charter boat operators, commercial fishers and aquaculture businesses. The Seafood Advisory Forum is another important step in encouraging fishing sectors to work on shared interests and build capacity and knowledge on fisheries management.</p> <p>The Government is also taking practical steps to improve fair access to fishing opportunities for recreational fishers. The primary step being taken is to increase the sustainability of key fish stocks by adopting modern fisheries management underpinned by expert fisheries science - and investing in data collection about the actual catch of recreational fishers.</p> <p>The Government is changing outdated commercial fishing practices which saw depleting snapper and garfish populations under Labor, and annual fishing closures forced on King George whiting. We have invested \$24.5 million in a major reform of the commercial marine scalefish fishery, buying out 100 commercial net and line fishing licences and</p>		
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	<p>introducing quota management for snapper, whiting, garfish and calamari. These reforms will mean total commercial catches of these species in the primary fishing grounds, in our gulfs, will be capped every year at scientifically determined sustainable levels.</p> <p>Snapper is a highly prized fish for recreational fishers. To allow our decimated snapper populations to recover, the Government took strong but necessary action to close snapper fishing until February 2023 in our gulfs and invested \$500,000 in a snapper restocking program to promote quicker recovery of the species.</p> <p>Recognising the important role the charter boat sector plays in supporting fishing tourism and allowing families without access to a boat to gain an experience of coastal fishing, the Government has delivered grants to support charter boat operators diversify their businesses, add to the amenities and offerings for clients while onboard, and better link with the tourism sector as a way of driving patronage to the industry.</p>		
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<p>Commit to building the capacity and capability of the recreational fishing sector</p> <p>Action 1 Deliver a River Murray recreational fishing co-management initiative which focuses on collaboration between government, business and the community for data collection, research, communications and management.</p> <p>Action 2 Embed greater transparency in fisheries management by better communicating the science behind decision making to recreational fishers and the broader community.</p> <p>Action 3 Support a junior fishers education program and kids fishing clinics to teach children about the aquatic environment and sustainable fishing practices.</p> <p>Action 4 Re-establish government recognition and funding for RecFish SA as the peak body for recreational fishing.</p> <p>Action 5 Fund a collaborative Citizen Science program as a means of growing community participation</p>	<p>The Government strongly supports a co-management approach to our fishing sectors (RecFish SA Action 1). Commencing with the Snapper Management Advisory Committee and the new Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee, the Government is integrating recreational fishing into formal fisheries co-management committees under the Fisheries Management Act 2007. This new committee will be responsible for providing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice on formal fisheries management rules applying across all fishing sectors sharing access to the marine scalefish fishery: commercial, recreational and charter boat. • Recreational fishing representatives on the committee will have access to the most up to date fisheries science and be able to question scientific experts and communicate fisheries management decisions back to the sector. This will provide much greater transparency to recreational fishers on fisheries management decisions (RecFish SA Action 2). <p>The Government supports extending this approach to other fisheries which are co-managed with formal Management Advisory Committees.</p> <p>The Government has also upgraded the South Australian Recreational Fishing App with new functionality to enable recreational fishers to upload their fishing data, which in addition to recreational fishing surveys, will build on the pool of information to help inform fisheries management (RecFish SA Actions 1 & 2).</p> <p>The Government will work with the MRFAC on proposals and opportunities to provide enhanced information on fisheries management issues and decisions, consistent with the Recreational Fishing Strategy (RecFish SA Action 2).</p> <p>The Government respects all recreational fishing bodies, clubs and associations and looks forward to continuing to engage with them. All recreational</p>	<p>As outlined in our attached plan, Labor is proud to commit to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better communicating with the recreational fishing and broader community about the science behind decision making in relation to fisheries management. • funding programs to engage children, women and diverse multicultural communities in recreational fishing in ways that enables them to learn more about the environment in which they fish; and • funding RecFish SA as the peak body for recreational fishing and in doing so, ensuring a strong, independent voice for recreational fishing to government. <p>Labor will work with RecFish SA to identify how citizen science programs can be integrated into recreational fishing and education programs.</p> <p>Labor will also investigate, with RecFish SA and local communities, the possibility of delivering a River Murray recreational fishing co-management initiative.</p> <p>Similarly, Labor will also investigate, with RecFish SA and local communities, the process around rock lobster pot and net registrations.</p>	<p>SA-BEST supports this initiative. We acknowledge collaboration is the key to successful fisheries management.</p> <p>Recreational fishers are a ready army of volunteers, with eyes and ears all over the state. It makes absolute sense to draw on the lived experience and knowledge of such a sizeable and invested group.</p> <p>For successful collaboration between groups, further investment in the real time delivery of accurate government information on websites and apps is essential.</p> <p>SA-BEST looks to the experts in relevant fields to inform our policy. This includes scientists and people with lived experience.</p> <p>In order for a successful collaboration of all sectors, transparency and accountability must be improved.</p> <p>SA-BEST wholeheartedly supports an expansion of the Sports Grants program, administered by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, to include junior fishing program providers.</p> <p>From 2022, the program has been expanded to include all South Australian school students aged to 15 years. We appreciate for many parents and caregivers, the \$100 discount on fees can mean the difference between participation and exclusion for the children and young people in their care.</p> <p>Recreational fishing provides an opportunity for children and young people to put down their technological devices and interact with nature in the great outdoors. It gives them the opportunity to be active, whilst interacting with friends and mentors. It helps develop water awareness in varying conditions, an understanding of the environment and so many other lifelong skills.</p>
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<p>in fisheries data acquisition and management.</p> <p>Action 6 Fund the delivery of the Recreational Fishing Champions and Snapper Stewards Program to 50 recreational fishers.</p> <p>Action 7 Co-manage funds from recreational rock lobster pot and net registrations to address recreational fishing priorities.</p>	<p>fishing bodies, clubs and associations are encouraged to engage constructively with the MRFAC, enabling the MRFAC to provide advice to government on the priorities identified by the sector. The engagement of RecFish SA and contribution of your members on the MRFAC is appreciated (RecFish SA Action 4).</p> <p>The Government is committed to working with the recreational fishing community to expand opportunities for recreational fishing in South Australia. Supporting the Recreational Fishing Strategy and the Seafood Growth Strategy for South Australia 2021-2031, the Government is providing \$100,000 over two years for regional recreational fishing activity grants to encourage people to get involved in fishing (RecFish SA Action 3), as well as support for golden fish events and working with the MRFAC to promote citizen science initiatives (RecFish SA Action 5).</p> <p>Unlike most other states, South Australia's recreational fishers are not required to pay the government for a licence to go fishing, or to take their son, daughter or grandchildren fishing. Our fishers have long been divided on the issue of fishing licences and support for a licence is still far from universal. In other jurisdictions, a wide range of recreational fishing development activities are funded by fishers from the proceeds of regulated recreational fishing licences. The Government's position is we will not be imposing a recreational fishing licence on the sector. The Government supports the efforts of the MRFAC to examine other opportunities to sustainably raise funds for recreational fishing developmental and promotion activities. The value our recreational fishers place on their activities, and significant private investment fishers make, suggests the sector has the capability to invest in fishing development activities, if encouraged and supported by government to do so (RecFish SA Action 6).</p> <p>Rock lobster pot and net registration fees - Consistent with the approach under previous governments, this</p>		<p>Not every young person wants to, or is able to, play traditional ball sports. It is an excellent alternative for children and young people living with physical and non-physical disabilities.</p> <p>Whilst we do not hold the purse strings, our Team supports, in principle, the re-establishment of a recreational fishing body that is representative of the sector. However, we think much more needs to be done. We are of the view that your sector in particular would also benefit greatly from the establishment of an umbrella organisation/independent peak industry body armed with the task of advocating for its various sectors in a collaborative and unified way. It is a tried and tested model that works well in other industries when it comes to successful outcomes but remains lacking in the fishing industry to its detriment.</p> <p>Every sector should have representation on such a body, including the recreational fishing sector, to ensure consistent, balanced and representative processes.</p> <p>MRFAC has recommended the government increase the involvement of recreational fishers in citizen science projects. SA-BEST wholeheartedly agrees with this recommendation.</p> <p>There is an army of at least 277,000 volunteers all over South Australia, the majority of whom are ready, willing and able to assist in data collection and fisheries management including but not limited to fish tagging, donating fish frames, cleaning up litter in our waterways and reporting and removing pests and weeds from habitats.</p> <p>SA-BEST supports the funding of programs aimed at educating recreational fishers.</p> <p>Educational programs have a multiplier effect and similar programs have been hailed a success in other states. Participants are committed to sharing what they learn with others in the community,</p>
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	<p>revenue contributes towards the cost of funding administration of these schemes and a contribution towards the recreational fishing share of fisheries science, fisheries management and compliance (RecFish SA Action 7).</p>		<p>including how to successfully catch and release certain species and maintaining habitat.</p> <p>Any funds collected from the recreational fishing sector, whether co- managed or not, need to be accounted for openly and transparently taking into account funding requirements for science, compliance and fisheries management with direct benefits flowing to the recreational sector.</p>
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<p>Fund and Implement the RecFish SA Better Fishing Stewardship Program</p> <p>Action 8 The RecFish SA Better Fishing Stewardship Program includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * increasing the allocation of key fish stocks for recreational fishing, * a fair and reasonable buyout of some commercial licences and quota in the Marine Scalefish fishery, * a fair and reasonable buy-out of commercial fishing licences in the Lakes & Coorong fishery, * removal of all netting from Area A of the Coorong, * introducing quota management in the Lakes and Coorong commercial fishery, * establishing recreational fishing havens in popular recreational fishing locations, * prioritising and protecting Australian salmon, Yellowtail kingfish, Blue groper, Samson fish, Black bream and Mulloway as key 	<p>Better Fishing Stewardship - The Government recognises RecFish SA's support for the Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia 2021-2024, which identifies a priority for the sector to establish constructive cross-sector management dialogue with the commercial and traditional Aboriginal fishing sectors.</p> <p>Through actions such as establishing the Seafood Advisory Forum and strengthening the co-management role of recreational fishing representatives on the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee, the Government has been working to bring the diverse fishing sectors together to address cross-sector challenges in a constructive way. Practical steps are being taken to improve fair access to fishing opportunities for recreational fishers by improving the sustainability of fish species, including through adopting modern fisheries management underpinned by expert fisheries science, and investing in data collection on actual recreational catch and effort.</p> <p>South Australia's coastal fisheries are shared resources accessed by all sectors: recreational, charter boat, traditional and commercial. While the Government has supported mutually agreed proposals to restrict commercial fishing close to some jetties and landmarks, it is important that the fishing sectors co-exist and are able to share waters. South Australian fisheries management leads the nation in providing for effective coexistence, by providing access to set allocated sector shares of managed fisheries. This ensures recreational fishers and commercial fishers get a fair and secure access to resources, underpinning investment decisions by recreational and commercial fishers alike.</p> <p>These sector shares were determined by the former government following an extensive process and are locked in place (RecFish SA Action 8A).</p>	<p>Labor appreciates the longstanding and difficult issues around allocations and access to fish stocks. Labor also appreciates the need for these issues to be positively resolved in order to advance tourism opportunities and to ensure sustainable fish stocks for the future.</p> <p>Labor commits to ensuring that the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing work closely together and with stakeholders and local communities to progress these issues.</p> <p>As detailed in our plan, Labor is committed to publishing our tourism strategy focused on recreational fishing at the beginning of 2024. Labor commits to ensuring that the issues outlined in your document are contemplated in that strategy and that the tackling of these issues is also progressed through the development of a plan in collaboration with RecFish SA.</p>	<p>Our team believes the fishing sector as a whole would benefit greatly from the establishment of an umbrella organisation/independent peak industry body armed with the task of advocating for its various sectors, including your own in a collaborative and unified way. It is a tried and tested model that works well in other industries when it comes to successful outcomes but remains lacking in the fishing industry.</p> <p>Every sector should have representation on such a body, including the recreational fishing sector, to ensure consistent, balanced and representative processes.</p>
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<p>sportfishing and tourism resources,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* prioritising the inshore Blue Swimmer crab fishery for recreational and tourism purposes and;* prohibiting netting in Gulf St. Vincent and in proximity to coastal towns which rely on marine tourism			
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<p>Develop a whole of government recreational fishing policy</p> <p>Action 9 Adopt the developmental objectives of the Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia 2021-2024</p> <p>Action 10 Formally recognise recreational fishing as an active recreation to unlock development opportunities including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * establishing a women in fishing initiative; * promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing, * increasing and diversifying community participation in recreational fishing, * delivering an aquatic environment and sustainable fishing education program to drive stewardship and build social licence, * growing participation in fishing clubs and; * encouraging more community fishing events and sportfishing tournaments. <p>Action 11 Recognise the recreational fishing sector</p>	<p>Recognising recreational fishing as a recreation - Fishing is valued as an important recreational activity enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of South Australians over their lifetimes. Recreational fishing benefits from investments across several government agencies and programs, including upgrades to boat ramps and jetties funded by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, access to reservoirs managed by SA Water, fishing and regional development programs administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, and other government programs working in partnership with local government (RecFish SA Action 10).</p> <p>Tourism and Fishing - The Government has strongly supported development of nature-based tourism opportunities. Recreational fishing represents a significant nature-based and regional tourism opportunity for South Australia. The Government has partnered with the tourism sector to help recreational charter boat fishing operators diversify their businesses and expand their service and appeal in providing a tourism experience for visitors to the state and our regions. The Government has also provided grants to charter boat operators to upgrade their vessels to improve the amenities for their clients. The Government will continue to work with all sectors to explore opportunities to increase nature-based tourism experiences and the role recreational fishing can play in attracting and adding value to tourists to this state (RecFish SA Action 11).</p>	<p>Labor's plan commits a Malinauskas Labor Government to formally recognising recreational fishing as active recreation - a strategy which will help to grow participation in fishing clubs and encourage more</p> <p>The plan highlights our commitment to improving diversity in recreational fishing participation through our pledge to fund programs for women, children and diverse multicultural communities.</p> <p>Labor's plan also includes a commitment to developing a recreational fishing tourism strategy and to release that strategy at the beginning of 2024. As part of the development of this strategy, recreational fishing's strong contribution to tourism and the economy will be contemplated.</p> <p>Labor will review the recreational fishing strategy and work with RecFish SA and communities to develop a whole of government recreational fishing policy. We will ensure that other relevant departments are involved.</p>	<p>SA-BEST is broadly supportive of the Strategy's objectives and eagerly awaits positive outcomes from its implementation.</p> <p>SA-BEST recognises the direct benefits of fishing on a person's wellbeing and health, particularly mental health.</p> <p>We are fully supportive of initiatives aimed at encouraging and increasing community participation by all genders and abilities in recreational fishing and the development and promotion of education programs with a broad reach across South Australia.</p> <p>SA-BEST supports the engagement of the SA Tourism Commission to develop a partnership in actively promoting recreational fishing spots, as recommended in the Strategy.</p> <p>We eagerly await the findings of the SA Recreational Fishing Survey 2021-2022, currently being conducted by the South Australian Research and Development Institute in partnership with the University of Tasmania. The data collected from the survey will play an important role in shaping the tourism road map.</p>
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<p>as a key stakeholder in the SA tourism industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Develop an integrated recreational fishing tourism plan* Collect data on the economic contribution of recreational fishing tourism to SA			
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<p>Invest in infrastructure and facilities to build abundant fish stocks and better fishing</p> <p>Action 12 Build a freshwater and a marine fish hatchery to support stocking programs for native freshwater fish, Yellowtail kingfish, Black bream, Mulloway and Snapper.</p> <p>Action 13 Return the Reservoir Fishing permits scheme back to RecFish SA to maximise investment in the development of reservoir fisheries.</p> <p>Action 14 Improve recreational fishing infrastructure to create diverse fishing experiences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * invest in a state-wide aquatic habitat program to protect and restore key habitats for aquatic species, * build 3 more artificial fishing reefs and install a network of 10 FADs in coastal waters, * unlock the boating facilities fund to improve priority boat ramp facilities across the state, 	<p>Fish restocking - The Government has invested in significant freshwater and marine fish restocking, supporting rehabilitation of snapper in the Gulfs, and fish stocking in the River Murray and reservoirs. We will continue to work with the MRFAC to identify opportunities for fish restocking which will encourage more South Australians to participate in fishing (RecFish SA Action 12).</p> <p>Reservoir fishing permits - The Government has taken firm action to open more reservoirs to the community and for recreational fishing, despite opposition from the Labor Party to this important initiative. Changes to the administration of reservoir fishing permits support initiatives to open our reservoirs, fund fish stocking (most recently 1,000 Murray cod released into Happy Valley reservoir) and provide facilities for South Australians to make the most of this public infrastructure (RecFish SA Action 13).</p> <p>We have partnered with the Commonwealth Government to fund a further \$1.7 million in relatively small but important boating, camping and fishing facility upgrades across regional South Australia, announced in December 2021 (RecFish SA Action 14).</p> <p>Reinstate access to popular fishing locations - The Government is willing to work with the MRFAC and local communities to identify opportunities to increase access to popular fishing locations. The Government undertook an extensive review and consultation of Labor's marine parks and proposed changes to boundaries which would have restored several key historic fishing grounds. Unfortunately, these changes were blocked by Labor, the Greens and SA Best in the Parliament. Through negotiation with the fishing sectors, the Government has been able to reach agreement to re-establish shore-based recreational fishing in northern Gulf St Vincent adjacent to the marine park (RecFish SA Action 15).</p>	<p>Labor has committed an additional \$1m to upgrade the ageing O'Sullivan Beach Boat Ramp so that it is safe and accessible to all for the future.</p> <p>In consultation with RecFish SA, other stakeholders and communities, we will identify a program of works to improve infrastructure; the program will contemplate the development of artificial fishing reefs, wharves, jetties and breakwaters. Labor will investigate the possibility of utilising the boating facilities fund for these improvements.</p>	<p>SA-BEST supports collaborative programs aimed at supporting a sustainable fishery for current and future generations.</p> <p>Funds collected from the recreational fishing sector should be used for the overall benefit of the sector, with direct benefits flowing to recreational fishing.</p> <p>SA-BEST calls on the government to make a significant investment in infrastructure and facilities for the future of recreational fishing in South Australia.</p> <p>We are particularly concerned about the distinct lack of safe access to fishing spots for people living with disabilities and the aged. It is unacceptable that basic infrastructure is dilapidated and unsafe. Our Team is committed to advocating for much needed public works improvements during the next term of parliament.</p> <p>Funds must be invested into upgrading facilities as a government priority and we will use our position to advocate for these upgrades.</p> <p>The recreational fishing sector is best placed to identify what those facilities are and their order of priority.</p> <p>SA-BEST welcomes the opportunity to discuss how we can help advocate on your behalf in relation to urgently needed upgrades.</p>
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<p>* commit to a funded package of works to maintain our jetties in a safe condition and ensure they are accessible to people of all abilities,</p> <p>* fund the construction of concrete decks on one metropolitan and one regional breakwater to facilitate better public access.</p> <p>Action 15 Reinstate access to popular fishing locations;</p> <p>* re-open recreational fishing access to the many wharves and jetties across the state, which have been closed to fishing,</p> <p>* provide better facilities and access to public land on the coast and River Murray for fishing and camping.</p>			
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