



- Position Statement -

Access to Sustainable Aquatic Resources

Recfishwest believes in the right of recreational fishers to access sustainable aquatic resources of Western Australia. Access to sustainable aquatic resources promotes values such as culture, heritage, health, wellbeing, lifestyle and/or recreation.

There should be no further closures or restrictions of access to any jetty, fishing platform or shore-based access point in WA unless all reasonable alternatives have been explored and it is negotiated within the community and all interested parties have had input.

Vehicular access to and along beaches and freshwater bodies where there is evidence of historical access should be continued. This may include, but is not limited to, access through pastoral leases. Where pastoral leases lie adjacent to areas historically accessed by recreational fishers, provision should be given (that is, land excised from the lease) to allow public access accordingly.

Ongoing access to sustainable aquatic resources for fishers of all abilities must be incorporated into any future developments or activities that have the potential to impact on access to aquatic resources.

Background

Access to aquatic resources refers not only to the facilities which provide access to those resources, but also to the fish¹ within the aquatic environment. Provided a resource is deemed to be sustainable and can be accessed sustainably, there should be no reasonable justification as to why recreational fishers cannot access that resource.

- ¹Fish: An aquatic organism of any species (whether alive or dead) and includes —
- (a) The eggs, spat, spawn, seeds, spores, fry, larva or other source of reproduction or offspring of an aquatic organism; and
 - (b) A part only of an aquatic organism (including the shell or tail), but does not include aquatic mammals, aquatic reptiles, aquatic birds, amphibians or pearl oysters.