



MEDIA RELEASE

June 2, 2015

Recfishwest Calls on Government to Protect Fishing Licence Fund

Recfishwest have expressed concerns about the future of the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) following the release of the State Budget.

Prior to the last election, the Government promised to allocate 25% of recreational fishing licence fees into the RFIF to be invested into projects that support better fishing in WA.

Recfishwest Chief Executive Officer, Dr Andrew Rowland said the community don't mind paying for a fishing licence as long as they see a fair and reasonable proportion of their money being re-invested into projects that supports sustainable fishing.

"Since its inception in 2011, the RFIF has invested \$6.5 million into community projects supporting fishing safety, artificial reefs, youth development, education, Fish Aggregation Devices, biological research on important recreational species and stocking of iconic fish species," Dr Rowland said.

"These projects are highly valued by the community."

"We are concerned decisions are being made to 'find savings' by cutting funding to the RFIF."

This will result in:

- No more prawns stocked into the Swan River,
- No artificial reef for Mandurah,
- No state-wide deployment of Fish Aggregation Devices,
- No more stocking of Mulloway or Pink Snapper,
- A decrease in fishing safety outcomes,
- No leadership development for young recreational fishers,
- No Restoration of estuary habitats in Albany,
- No fish friendly farms program for WA.

"The RFIF is the people's fund and Recfishwest is calling upon the people's representatives to protect it."

"We want the Government to reaffirm support for the fund that they created and provide comfort to the states 740,000 fishers that this fund will not simply being raided in an effort to balance the budget." Dr Rowland said.

Recfishwest is the effective voice driving positive change for the recreational fishing community of WA.

ENDS

Media Contact – Communications Manager Tim Grose 0411393977