

Recreational fishing is one of our most treasured pastimes. WA Labor is committed to ensuring that we support recreational fishing and create the opportunities for kids and families to get outdoors.

A study estimated that recreational fishing has an economic value more than \$569million in WA and employs almost 10,000 Western Australians either directly or indirectly.

WA Labor looks forward to working with industry and Recfishwest to deliver enhanced recreational fishing opportunities across Western Australia.



A McGowan Labor Government will:

- **Maintain the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund at a level equivalent to 25 per cent of the annual recreational fishing licence contributions to support initiatives such as restocking of recreational species, installation of FADS and improving habitats.**
- **Maintain and enhance the co-management of recreational fishing in WA through continued funding to Recfishwest at a level equivalent of 15 per cent of the annual recreational fishing licence contributions.**
- **Provide additional funding to the State-wide Fishing Safety Strategy to help provide a safer fishing experience.**
- **Introduce the MarineRescue App to connect boaters to search and rescue experts.**
- **Provide additional and ongoing funding to Fishability WA.**
- **Upgrade boating facilities in Broome and commence planning for a new marina.**
- **Support the initiative to restore native oyster reef habitat in Oyster Harbour estuary in Albany.**
- **In Bunbury work with the City to build a fishing platform, identify locations for FADS and investigate making The Cut a navigational channel.**
- **Ensure the ongoing health of the Peel Harvey Estuary.**

Recreational fishing is an important part of WA's way of life and it is an important economic driver. Recreational fishing creates jobs in both direct and indirect supply which are vital to many coastal towns and regional areas.

There are an estimated 740,000 recreational fishers in WA ranging from serious regular fishers to families looking to spend time outdoors and maybe catch dinner. Recreational fishing in all its forms can have a positive impact on our mental, physical, social and economic wellbeing.

Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund

A McGowan Labor Government will maintain the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) at a level equivalent to 25 per cent of the annual recreational fishing licence contributions.

Artificial reefs, FADS and restocking programs all play an important part in enriching the recreational fishing experience as well as growing the economic contribution that recreational fishing makes to the state. WA Labor will continue to support new initiatives through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund.

Supporting Recfishwest

A McGowan Labor Government will provide guaranteed levels of funding to Recfishwest at a level equivalent to 15 per cent of annual recreational fishing licence contributions.

We will work with Recfishwest and other stakeholders on initiatives to maintain and enhance the co-management of recreational fishing in WA. Recreational Fishing in WA is well represented by Recfishwest who provide a professional advocacy and advisory service.

Safer Fishing Experience

Safety must always be an important part of Recreational Fishing. Rock fishing in particular can be very dangerous with 30 people having died in WA since 2002. A McGowan Labor Government will secure and increase the fund of the State-wide Fishing Safety Strategy to \$125, 000 per annum. Further money may be allocated from the RFIF. The Strategy will be developed in consultation with Recfishwest and other stakeholders.

Supporting Fishability WA

Making recreational fishing accessible to people with disabilities can sometimes be a challenge but it brings many rewards. That is why the work of Fishability WA [formerly Fishers with Disabilities Association] is so important and will receive secured and increased funding of \$100,000 per annum from a McGowan Labor Government.

Marine Rescue App

On average in WA, only 15 per cent of recreational craft notify someone before heading out to sea. This makes searching for lost vessels harder and less time responsive.

A McGowan Labor Government will in consultation with stakeholders introduce the MarineRescue App, a free App that connects boaters to marine rescue experts. The App will enable boaters to log on to the website and if boaters aren't safety back when expected, the App alerts the nearest marine rescue group. Every minute counts in an emergency situation and this app will increase our boaters' and fishers' safety while at sea.

Broome Boating to be made safer

The great majority of fishing vessels in and around Broome are trailer size. However, the existing boating facilities in Broome are dangerous and have caused injuries to local boat operators and property over many years.

A McGowan Labor Government will invest \$13.5 million to upgrade boating facilities in Broome to improve safety and access at Entrance Point, Town Beach and Gantheaume Point.

We will also provide \$500,000 in funding towards the planning for Broome's new marina. WA Labor will continue working with local organisations and the community in Broome to identify a suitable site and commence planning.



WA LABOR

Recreational Fishing for the Future

Restore the Oyster Reef in Albany

WA Labor will allocate \$2 million to support the work of Recfishwest, The Nature Conservancy Australia, UWA and South Coast Natural Resource Management to bring back oyster reefs to Oyster Harbour. This project will focus on restoring southern mud or native flat oyster reefs based on experience developed from oyster restoration projects in Victoria and overseas.

This project will restore oyster reefs to help to improve recreational fishing, biodiversity and water quality in Oyster Harbour.

Fishing in Bunbury

A McGowan Labor Government will investigate suitable location around Bunbury where artificial fishing habitats can be deployed, work with the City of Bunbury to build a new fishing platform for the Bunbury Community and conduct a study to determine the suitability of making The Cut a navigational channel and safe for small boats.

Peel Harvey Estuary

A McGowan Labor Government would ensure that the recreational fishing experience that comes from the Peel Harvey Estuary is enhanced and protected into the future.

A McGowan Labor Government will provide \$1.5 million to projects to ensure the continued health of the Peel Harvey Estuary. The fund will be administered by the Peel Development Commission.

The future health of the estuary as a fishing resource into the future can only be achieved by maintaining the sustainability of both the recreational and commercial catch.

WA Labor will bring the parties together and plan a sustainable future. This may include a buy back of some commercial fishing licenses.