



Annual Report

17/18

Our purpose is great fishing experiences
for all in the WA community forever

Chairman
Tim Bray

Recfishwest Staff

Chief Executive Officer
Dr Andrew Rowland

Operations Manager
Leyland Campbell

Communications Manager
Tim Grose

Office Manager
Yvette Guy

Fishing Development Officer
Matthew Gillett

Research Officer
James Florisson

Communications Coordinator
Alanna Hubbard

Research Officer
Steph Watts

Fishing Clinic Coordinator
Kate Sewell

Policy Officer
Katie Green

Membership & Events Officer
Ruth Sprague

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Vanessa Abbott

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Supported by



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



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Letter from the Minister

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to Recfishwest's annual report. I'm very proud of the great outcomes the McGowan Government has been able to deliver in the past 12 months for the Western Australian fishing community by working in partnership with Recfishwest.

We have recently progressed a new three-year funding agreement with Recfishwest. It has clear deliverables that will provide value to the community. In particular, it recognises Recfishwest as partners with a shared responsibility for managing the sustainable use of our community's fish resources.



With an estimated 671,000 Western Australians going fishing every year there is no doubt fishing is one of WA's treasured pastimes. It also has economic and social benefits for the State. The McGowan Government is working hard to improve recfishing opportunities in WA.



Election commitments

The McGowan Labor government has worked hard to fulfil our election commitments to the recreational fishing community. To date we have;

- Ensured 25% of recreational licence fees money goes to the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund;
- Guaranteed 15% of recreational fishing licence money will go to Recfishwest;
- Increased funding to Fishability WA by 25%;
- Allocated funding to upgrade boating facilities in Broome including at Town Beach, Catalina's boat ramp and Entrance Point; and
- Progressed work on our election commitments for Oyster Harbour and the Peel-Harvey Estuary.

Exmouth has received a new purpose-built reef thanks to fishing licence money and community partners, and a new reef will be deployed in Esperance in late 2018. Funding has already been committed to a new artificial reef off the northern suburbs of Perth, set for deployment in summer 2019.



Management that makes a difference for recreational fishers

We have also been improving and streamlining the management of our fisheries including;

- Allowing year round fishing for rock lobsters due to the exemplary management of this highly valued fishery. It's a win-win for key holiday destinations that builds on other changes to make lobster fishing more accessible, such as simplifying the rules across the State;
- Changes to allow for recreational fishers enjoying a day out on a boat to share their catch. We are streamlining our fishing rules to make them simpler; and
- For the first time we have also approved the use of recreational licence fee revenue to buy-back commercial fishing licences in an effort to reduce conflict between sectors and provide more fishing opportunities for recreational fishers.

Ongoing Support

I want WA's recreational fishing experience to get even better and build on our reputation for having some of the most sustainable fisheries and being one of the best places in the world to fish. However, most of all I want fishers to enjoy themselves, hold on to their reputation for great stewardship and keep safe so they can make it home to tell their stories of another great day's fishing in WA.

- Fisheries Minister
Dave Kelly

Board of Management

1.1 Chairman's Report

"Our purpose is to ensure great fishing experiences for all in the WA community forever."

- Recfishwest Chairman **Tim Bray**

Welcome to the Recfishwest Annual Report for 2018 and on behalf of the Board I am very pleased to present a strong report on the activities of your organisation.

I would firstly like to thank all the team led by CEO Andrew Rowland and my fellow directors for their tireless efforts throughout the year.

I would also like to thank outgoing Director Jason Froud for his contributions to the Recfishwest Board over the past few years. Jason's strategic mind and attention to detail was an asset to the board and I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Our 2018 report highlights the core activities and achievements of Recfishwest aligned with our strategy and of course all driven by a central and unchanged purpose.

Recfishwest continues to be driven by our commitment to protect, promote and create sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing experiences.

Membership and Communications

A key part of that strategy always has been and continues to be to grow our membership base and in the 12 month period of 2017-18 our membership grew by just over 5% to 11,127.

In addition to that we finished the financial year with:

- Our Broad Cast Enewsletter being distributed to 73,000 supporters each month
- A Facebook reach of over 3.3 million people

- 900,000 views across our websites, and
- 66,000 downloads of our Smartphone App

This growing network and support is central to our mandate to drive new initiatives that directly invest in our community.

Fishing Development

Providing the community with more places to fish and more fish to catch is our way to solidify fishing into the future of West Aussie culture.

One of the best examples of this is our work in continuing to deploy new fishing playgrounds as artificial reef structures. An innovative project I personally have been following closely is the development and installation of Australia's first integrated artificial reef in the Exmouth Gulf. Partnering with resource companies to engineer ecosystems via repurposed steel structures and other materials is a significant and strategic step forward to ensure our marine habitats are enhanced while providing the community with safe and accessible fishing opportunities.

The work conducted by the local Esperance community to 'hand build' their own reef was astronomical. Donated local material, transport and volunteer time helped build their 128 module, 150 tonne artificial reef.



It's community passion and drive like this that keep us listening to the needs of the community and delivering projects that ultimately belong to the people.

I was in the water with my family at this year's Snapper Guardians release and is something I take great pleasure in knowing the Recfishwest team are delivering experiences for the community. To see hundreds of families come down to the waters of Cockburn Sound and release their own Snapper, demonstrates the importance of community values in everything Recfishwest does.

Advocacy and Challenges

We have been lucky in WA to have a licence system that invests the community's fishing licence fees back into projects that benefit their fishing. Artificial reefs, fish stocking, community programs, fishing safety and research projects have all come from the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF), designed to make fishing better. As you'll read throughout this report and on our website, the projects being delivered around WA are an integral part of creating new fishing opportunities for West Aussies and making WA an envy of the nation.

The new 12 month open season for crayfish was a great win for the tens of thousands of crayfishers, especially the divers. Representing the interests of all our user groups is important to us and to gain better access

to this world class fishery was fantastic, especially as there were no issues with the cray stocks in WA. We advocate for safe fishing experiences for our community, so to make diving for crays much safer, I believe the activity will be far more enjoyable for those who chose to catch their crays underwater.

The Department of Fisheries amalgamated into a new government department and formed the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. This department incorporates Fisheries, Agriculture and Regional Development. We understand the machinery of government changes has caused an unsettling mood within government, but with change comes opportunity.

There are now new opportunities within government to promote the interests and value of our sector in a manner that is aligned with Recfishwest's core purpose. We will be bold with our priorities and approach to influence key decision makers of the importance of recreational fishing to the state of Western Australia. We will turn the dial on campaigns to raise the profile of priority fisheries that we deem vitally important to the culture of West Aussies.

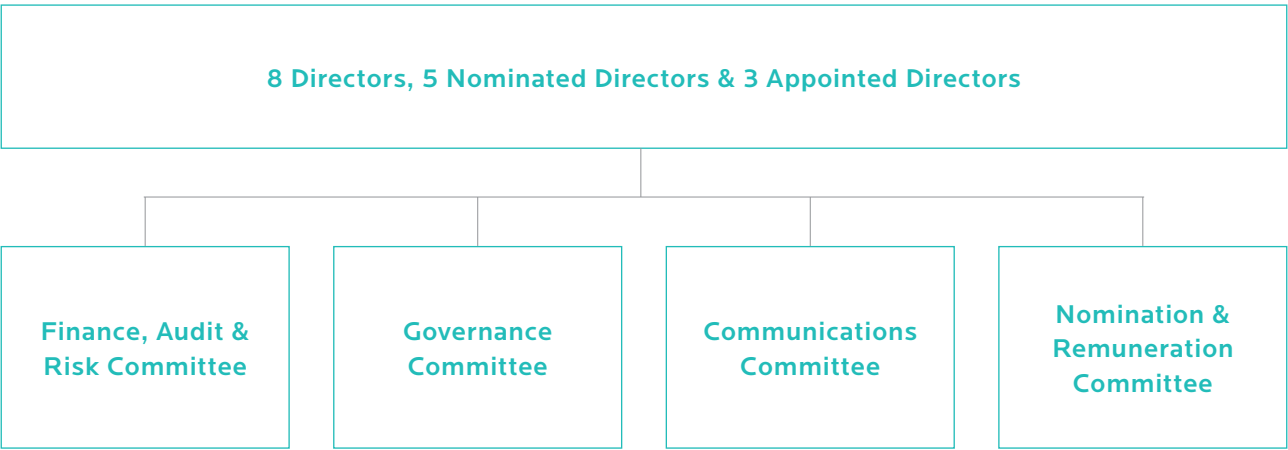
See you out there.

Tim Bray
Chairman

1.2 The Board

The Recfishwest Board contains eight directors, comprising five nominated directors elected by the Recfishwest membership and three appointed directors.

Board Structure



Recfishwest Committee meetings are generally held prior to Recfishwest monthly Board Meetings allowing recommendations and outcomes of committee meetings to be tabled at the Board Meeting.

Committees

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Governance Committee	Communications Committee	Nomination & Remuneration Committee
Geoff Ellis Tim Bray Jeff Cooper Liam Surridge (Associate)	Kevin Gammage Dean Thorburn Simon McLernon	Simon McLernon Jeff Cooper Tania Douthwaite Luke Doherty (Associate)	Tim Bray Geoff Ellis Kevin Gammage Dean Thorburn



Table of Board Meetings Attended

Elected Director	Number of Meetings Attended
Tim Bray	7
Geoff Ellis	8
Dean Thorburn	7
Kevin Gammage	6
Simon McLernon	6
Jeff Cooper	5
Tania Douthwaite	5
Gary Thorniley	1
Jason Froud	1
Heidi Cuthbert	1

8 meetings held between September 2017 and August 2018



Board Members



Tim Bray

Chairman Elected Director

Tim is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chairman of Recfishwest. He is also Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Tim was first appointed to the Recfishwest Board in 2012 for a one year term and subsequently re-appointed for a two year term in October 2013.

Tim worked as a fisheries scientist, fisheries manager and senior advisor to the Minister for Fisheries over a 14 year period before joining Western Power as Manager Corporate Affairs.

Tim was also the General Manager of Corporate Communications with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for two years before joining Ecocentric Energy as its inaugural CEO.

Tim is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

Tim was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2017 AGM for a 2 year term.



Geoff Ellis

Non-Executive Director, Deputy Chair and Chair of Finance Audit & Risk Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee

Geoff is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest. He is currently the Deputy Chair of the Board and Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. He also represents Recfishwest on the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme.

Currently semi-retired, Geoff is a Director of Super Nova Motor Yachts trading as Offshore Marine and has been for the past 25 years. He has also managed several retail boat and caravan sales businesses in WA.

Geoff has held the following positions; President/Finance Director of Boating Industry Association WA, member of Caravan Industry Association WA, member of the Motor Trade Association, licenced motor vehicle dealer and licenced second hand dealer. Geoff was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2017 AGM for a two-year term.



Board Members *cont.*



Kevin Gammage

Non-Executive Director, Chair Governance Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee

Kevin is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and also Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee. He is currently serving his second term as one of the three appointed Directors of Recfishwest.

Currently, Kevin is a partner in the corporate law firm Nova Legal. Prior to being admitted to practice in Western Australia, Kevin worked in the corporate sector, spending sixteen years at senior management level and CEO level in listed and unlisted companies with annual sales revenue between \$50–\$90 million.

In these roles Kevin led negotiations relating to business sales and acquisitions, supply agreements, intellectual property licensing, structuring of shareholder arrangements and capital raisings.



Jeff Cooper

Non-Executive Director, Communications Committee, Finance Audit & Risk Committee

Jeff Cooper is the past President of the Broome Fishing Club and former Chair of Broome Boating Facility Community Reference Group. Jeff is also a former board member for the Marine Park Reserves Authority and a representative of the International Game Fishing Association. Jeff is currently a Training Manager at the North Regional TAFE (former Kimberley Training Institute) for Aquaculture, Fisheries, Maritime (including the Broome Maritime Simulation Centre), Community and Children's Services, Conservation and Land Management, Pastoral, Tourism and other areas. He is also a mentor for the Recfishwest Young Future Leaders Programs. Jeff has been a major proponent for barramundi stock enhancement in the Kimberley and has been heavily involved with restocking Dampier Creek, and has been a project leader for the Lake Kununurra restocking project. Jeff is extremely enthusiastic about game fishing and has previously worked with Dr Julian Pepperell to tag sailfish with PSAT and SPOT tags to determine their movements and behaviours around Broome as part of a Woodside-funded program.



Board Members *cont.*



Gary Thorniley

Non-Executive Director

Gary has a career spanning agricultural research at CSIRO and Department of Agriculture (now DPIRD), technical and business advice, marketing, financial services and leadership. Gary is a Senior Private Client Advisor at Morgans Financial in West Perth, Director of Ecocentric Energy and was previously Director of a financial advisory firm.

He is a member of the AICD, Conscious Capitalism Australia, Perth Angels and is a CFP member of the FPA. Gary has a particular interest in directly contributing to the success of companies and organisations that have a strong value proposition, address real issues and demonstrate a positive culture.

Gary grew up boating and fishing at Port Gregory and still enjoys getting on the water when he is not watching his sons weekend sport. Gary is a keen cyclist and supports charities through multiple fundraising events, including the iconic Hawaiian Ride For Youth.



Simon McLernon

Non-Executive Director, Chair Communications Committee, Governance Committee

Simon is a non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the governance and Communications Committees. He brings a wealth of external experience from his work as an engineer from a variety of different industries over the past decade, including ship building and subsea engineering. Simon currently works as a subsea engineer at BHGE.

For over three years Simon has been volunteering his engineering skills in designing and manufacturing the Bluewater Safety Float, which is designed to help increase safety for divers and other boat users.

Being an avid diver and fisher throughout his life, Simon has a strong interest in marine life behaviour and the sustainability of WA fisheries.

Simon was the events coordinator for Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia for three years and the VP for two years. Simon was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2016 Annual General Meeting.



Board Members *cont.*



Dean Thorburn

Non-Executive Director, Governance Committee, Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Dean is a non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Governance Committee. Dean was elected to the Recfishwest Board in October 2011 and re-elected for a two-year term at the 2016 AGM.

Dean is a biologist with over 15 years of professional experience conducting marine and aquatic studies and specialises in fish biology and ecology. Dean is the Director and Principal Scientist of an environmental consulting company and has occupied that role since 2006. In this current role, Dean continues to work on the biology of numerous bony and cartilaginous fish species and conducts environmental monitoring programs, impact assessments and aids with government approvals for various projects throughout northern Australia and south-east Asia.

Dean is also a member of the Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia.



Tania Douthwaite

Non-Executive Director, Communications Committee

Tania is a non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Communications Committee. Tania was elected to the Recfishwest board at the 2017 AGM for a two-year term. Tania is a marine scientist and marine science communicator with professional experience in the environmental consulting, commercial diving and recreational freediving industry.

Tania was a former Recfishwest Young Future Leader in Recreational Fishing in 2011 and has been a keen freshwater and saltwater fisher for over 20 years.

Tania was the Vice Chairman of the West Australian Undersea Club Inc. serving on the committee for five years in the role of Safety and Education Officer. She has a particular passion for freediving spearfishing safety education and marine ecology.

Tania currently works as a freediving instructor and marine artist. She is a dedicated and passionate individual that is interested in protecting the sustainability, enjoyment, accessibility and safety of WA recreational fishing.

1.3 CEO's Report

"At Recfishwest, we protect, promote and create great fishing experiences for the WA community forever and something we make sure we never take for granted or undervalue!"

- Recfishwest CEO **Dr Andrew Rowland**

Welcome to another year's annual report detailing our activities and achievements of 2017/18. Well, what a year!



Firstly, this work would not be possible without the passion and day-to-day efforts of our small committed team. We all work to a common purpose, with the love of fishing driving us all toward better outcomes for fishing, the environment and West Aussie communities. We're extremely proud to represent the interests of the WA fishing community and our purpose has never been stronger.

Over the past year, Recfishwest have been working towards reshaping a new fishing frontier for WA through cutting edge innovation, habitat protection and enhancement and creating greater fish abundances in important fisheries across our state.

We took another step in our vision to build more artificial reefs along WA's coastline with the installation of Australia's first integrated artificial reef, 'King Reef'. An industry partnership with BHP, NERA (National Energy Resources Australia), world-leading subsea engineers Subcon, and the WA State Government trialled the concept of building an artificial reef from repurposed steel structures along with purpose-built concrete reef modules – with great success!

Deployed in shallow water and only 10 minutes from the Exmouth Marina, the Gulf of Exmouth received a boost for safe fishing, giving families in small boats an opportunity to catch world-class fish in the calm waters of the Exmouth Gulf. I encourage you to take a few minutes and watch the video on our

website of this exciting story. Our research team identified 28 fish species on the new reef in the first 28 days after deployment! Exmouth's newest fishing playground will be monitored by the local fishers through our 'Reef Vision' citizen science program with the support from Curtin University.

In addition, there are two more reefs on the horizon, one set to be deployed in Esperance in late 2018, the other within Perth's metro waters in late 2019.

There were some good wins for the fishing community over the past year, especially when it comes to fishing access. One of the reasons we exist is to protect access to WA fishing experiences, and to see the final Commonwealth Marine Park Plan come to fruition after so many years was a real positive. Over a decade of negotiations, with solid input from many of our stakeholders, meant the value of recreational fishing was acknowledged and a balanced approach delivered for both the environment and fishing.

It was great to see our Western Rock Lobster Reference Group providing advice to the Minister for Fisheries and his Department resulting in 12-month access to crayfish. With the sustainability of the stock well in hand, the reference group saw an opportunity to provide enhanced access for the 55,000 licensed crayfishers. This change was particularly welcomed in the Mid-West region which often experiences calm winter fishing conditions.



Clearer and simpler cray rules for divers were also adopted, including a diver's right to sort and measure their crays for five minutes once back on board the boat. Changes like this optimise the crayfishing experience while improving diver safety.

In September 2017 we launched WA's first-ever 'TroutFest' event, where hundreds of families descended on Drakesbrook Dam to release thousands of trout. Thanks for the support from the Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA) for their fly fishing tuition and thanks to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for delivering such healthy and vibrant fish from the Pemberton Hatchery. It's events such as TroutFest that expose the community to the freshwater fishing scene and encourage them to get outside and in touch with nature.

As CEO, a pleasing sight when launching my boat of a weekend is seeing so many people wearing lifejackets. We've worked tirelessly to model safe fishing practices and change the behaviours of fishers through our Statewide Fishing Safety Strategy. With the support of the WA State Government and partners, our safe fishing messages are reaching more people, getting more people in lifejackets and bringing more fishers home safe to their families at the end of a day out fishing.

I'd like to thank our partners who help our cause reach even more people. This year we welcomed onboard Getaway Outdoors as a Supporting Partner of our popular Family Fishing Clinic Program, along with Healthway who have now funded this program for 20 years. This program imparted knowledge and skill to over 3,000 kids throughout the year. We also welcomed All Boats and Caravans as a Supporting Partner of our Fishing Rules Phone App; helping promote sustainable and responsible fishing.

I am very grateful to have such a dedicated team in our office who simply love fishing in our great state. They each go above and beyond to ensure positive outcomes for those who share their passion for fishing and the outdoors. They are a committed and inspiring group of people.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Recfishwest Directors for their enthusiasm, expertise and support throughout this year, particularly our Chairman for his wisdom and leadership.

After spending some quality downtime camping and fishing the Ningaloo Reef this year, I am grateful for the great fishing we have here in WA. It's moments of reflection like this that drive us all at Recfishwest to protect, promote and create great fishing experiences for the WA community forever and something we make sure we never take for granted or undervalue!





"Our commitment is to protect, promote and create sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing for the benefit of the community."

Recfishwest Staff

Staff Members



Andrew Rowland

Chief Executive Officer

"My highlight for the year would have to be Recfishwest's first-ever Salmon Campout, held at Cheynes Beach, and seeing participants catching their first salmon after twenty years of trying. The South West offers some of the best scenery and wilderness experiences in Western Australia and it's great to be able to join in on the excitement and stories around such an amazing fish. We look forward to holding the event again next year."



Leyland Campbell

Operations Manager

"To see so many kids (including my own) connecting with the environment and having a positive first experience with fish at this year's Snapper Guardians and knowing this experience will live with them forever is truly a highlight and is hard to beat. I was extremely pleased to learn some people travelled hundreds of kilometres to be a part of our TroutFest at Drakesbrook Weir. This shows me we are doing things people want to be a part of and I look forward to this again next year."



Tim Grose

Communications Manager

"Releasing fish back into the wild with hundreds of smiling faces across our Snapper Guardians and TroutFest events was just awesome! Not every day do people get to release fish back into the environment and to help the kids and families of WA to do so is what I come to work for!"

Staff Members *cont.*



Yvette Guy

Office Manager

"I have felt very privileged to be part of the Recfishwest team and its passion for all things fishing. This includes a number of projects such as the installation of habitat enhancement reefs and the release of fish through our Snapper Guardians and TroutFest events. We are also educating the young fishers through our Fishing Clinic Program as well as promoting fishing safety. It's a great team to work with."



Matt Gillett

Fishing Development Officer

"A big achievement for me this year was working with the Carnarvon community to ensure their views around protecting Pink Snapper aggregations were reflected to Government and implemented as part of ongoing management of the Pink Snapper fishery in the Gascoyne. Another highlight included continuing our long-standing relationship with the Exmouth Game Fishing Club, providing opportunities to introduce fishing to the next generation of fishers through the GAMEX family fishing day, as well as facilitating the collection of important data on popular game fishing species through our tournament monitoring program."



James Florisson

Research Officer

"Over the last twelve months we have seen the largest increase in habitat enhancement to date in WA, providing fishers with more places to fish and more fish to catch. It was also exciting to see the deployment of King Reef, the first installation of a reef in WA that uses a combination of upcycled steel and concrete. Within a month of the reef's deployment, 25 different fish species called it home. Set to be deployed in October, Cooper Reef in Esperance was another major highlight and a shining example of the power of the community, being the first reef in WA to be built with local materials by local fishers, who also assisted in planning and research. Finally, this year we saw the first international scientific publication undertaken by Recfishwest and partners, showing the power of fishers collecting data on artificial reefs and documenting the ecological evolution of these structures."



Staff Members *cont.*



Alanna Hubbard

Communications Coordinator

"Entering into the world of recreational fishing, of which I'm truly passionate, has been my highlight this past year. Communicating with the people we represent across multiple platforms is what excites me to come to work and I enjoy playing a role in educating, influencing and motivating others in their attitudes towards fishing safety. It's great to see a shift in behaviour and mindset towards safety and watch the younger generations starting to pick this up."



Steph Watts

Research Officer

"The expansion and development of Reef Vision programs for the Exmouth and Esperance regions around the new artificial reefs is a huge milestone for Recfishwest this year. This opportunity to involve the community in conducting research on the reefs has increased interest and promoted stewardship of the marine environment. It's great to be able to be a part of Recfishwest's work, influencing the broader community."



Kate Sewell

Fishing Clinic Coordinator

"Coordinating more than 60 fishing clinic sessions of over 3,000 attendees across WA in 2018, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year of employment with Recfishwest. It's a small, capable and well-informed team with a big passion for everything fishing. I see Recfishwest fishing clinics as the perfect vehicle to communicate our visions and values to WA families into the future."



Staff Members *cont.*



Katie Green

Policy Officer

"My highlight was being given the opportunity to come back and work for Recfishwest after being on maternity leave for 13 months. Prior to my maternity leave I was working for Recfishwest on a secondment opportunity from the Department of Fisheries. So I was delighted and excited to get the call to come back to Recfishwest when as a staffer once I was ready."



Ruth Sprague

Membership & Events Officer

"The major highlight for me each year is playing a central role in the coordination and delivery of the Purple Fly Fishing Event. I love being able to provide support and care for people all through something as simple as fishing. Another highlight is seeing our membership grow throughout all parts of WA."

John Stubie

Office Support Volunteer

"I really enjoy coming to work at Recfishwest as I get to learn about different fishing lures and fish to catch as I help make up the member packs."



Vanessa Abbott

Accountant

"Management accounting highlights for 2017/2018 include the delivery of a comprehensive projected financial budget as well as a budget for future projects. The considerable human effort required to achieve successful advocacy and project completion was also considered in the budget, providing the board and management with reports that will assist in future decision making. An audited surplus for the 2017/2018 financial year was also achieved."

News & Highlights

3.1 Representation & Consultation

“Recfishwest strives hard to effectively represent the interests of the state’s recreational fishers. We do this by undertaking extensive consultation throughout Western Australia via our reference groups, online surveys and many face-to-face engagement activities throughout the year.”





A big year for Western Rock Lobster



Crayfish Rules Amended

- New rules: Divers now have five minutes to sort their lobster catch in the safety of their boat; crays in setose condition can now be kept
- Two people can share a lobster pot; fishers can keep lobster tails at home
- These changes optimise the fishing experience and improve diver safety



Annual Fishing Closure Lifted

- Rock lobster can now be caught year round
- A great improvement on winter fishing opportunities
- Biological sustainability is well in hand as a result of good management

3.1 Representation & Consultation *cont.*



Freshwater Licence-Free Weekend

- Families tried their hand at freshwater fishing for free over the Father's Day weekend
- A great way to experience WA's inland waterways
- Highlighted the fantastic freshwater fishing in the South West



Carnarvon Fishers Have Their Say

- Snapper conservation is at the centre of the community's mind
- Locals stewards provided input into a statewide survey to protect snapper
- Closure in place to protect spawning aggregations of Pink Snapper



Statewide Fishing Events

- Including Carnarfin, Shark Bay Fishing Fiesta, GAMEX, Kalbarri Annual Whiting Competition, Dampier Fishing Classic, Mandalay Family Fishing Event, Esperance Deep Sea Classic
- Excellent fishing experiences provided across the state
- These events help to support local communities



GAMEX Family Fun Day

- Exmouth competition is great for the community
- GAMEX events have injected over \$1 million into the local economy
- The premier fishing event in the country

3.1 Representation & Consultation *cont.*



Canal Rocks Boat Ramp

- Ramp closure announced due to 'safety concerns'
- Community and user groups were outraged
- 800 strong rally was held to protest the decision



Latest Commonwealth Marine Park Plan

- Plans announced providing a more balanced approach
- Delivered a better outcome for fishing
- The value of recreational fishing was acknowledged



Annual Fishing Closure Lifted

- New 12 month South West Freshwater fishing
- Opportunity to reconnect with nature
- More trout stocking to benefit fishers year round



Licence Fee Increase

- \$5 licence fee increase on 1 July
- Recfishwest did not support this change
- Recommendation was made to review the entire licence framework to make fees more equitable



Fishing Club Member Nights

- Supporting local clubs around WA
- Listening to the needs of local fishers
- Delivering fishing info nights to the members

3.2 Fishing Development

“We work hard to provide new fishing opportunities across the state, injecting recreational fishing licence money back into community driven projects that enhance the recreational fishing experience. Whether it’s new artificial reefs or improving access to particular fisheries, we strive to deliver projects the community value.”



Stock Enhancement Improves Marron Fishery

- A marron breeding program was started at Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre (PFRC)
- Trial to shed new light on stocking possibilities
- It aims to improve the sustainability of WA’s iconic marron fishery



Crab Stocking Trial

- A WA first!
- Another example of RFIF investing in good science
- Building abundances through stocking



New Fishing Frontier

- Calls were made to unlock inland waterways in WA
- Encouraged the introduction of East Coast species to improve fishing
- Tourism potential for regional towns was recognised



New Reef Coming to Perth

- It will become WA's seventh artificial reef
- To be located in the Perth metro area
- The reef will provide accessible fishing for many

3.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

Recfishwest Artificial Reefs - located across Western Australia

For more information on our Artificial Reefs, visit recfishwest.org.au/our-services/artificial-reefs/





Bunbury Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 3°18.500'S 115 35.900'E **Depth** 17 metres

Module Type Concrete Fish Boxes x 6 clusters of 5 modules (the location is the centre point between all the clusters)



Dunsborough Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 33°33.962'S 115°9.980'E **Depth** 27 metres

Module Type Concrete Fish Boxes x 6 clusters of 5 modules (the location is the centre point between all the clusters)



Esperance Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 33°52.2638'S 121°58.834'E **Depth** 31 metres

Module Type Apollos, Abitats and 128 Reef Dome Modules



Exmouth Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 21°54.938'S 114°11.235'E **Depth** 17 metres

Module Type Steel reef units/concrete modules; Apollos, Abitats and Pyramids



Mandurah Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 32° 31.59'S 115° 34.98'E **Depth** 25 metres

Module Type Concrete Fish Boxes x 6 clusters of 5 modules (the location is the centre point between all the clusters)



Perth Fish Towers

Tower 1 **Coordinates** 32°07.527'S 115°27.013'E **Depth** 45 metres

Module Type 12 metre high steel structure

Tower 2 **Coordinates** 32°07.461'S 115°26.978'E **Depth** 45 metres

Module Type 12 metre high steel structure



3.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

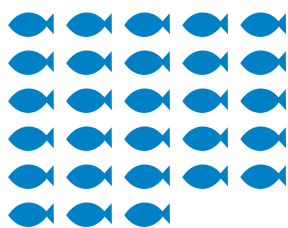
Exmouth's 'King Reef' - Australia's First Integrated Artificial Reef

- This integrated artificial reef is the first of its kind
- Located only 10 minutes from Exmouth Marina
- It will provide a safe and accessible location for families in small boats

“After many years working on bringing this vision to life, Recfishwest and the local community are thrilled to see new safe and accessible fishing opportunities for locals and tourists in the Exmouth area.”



Exmouth Reef Statistics



28
FISH



IN **28**
DAYS

58 modules across two acres of sandy barren sea floor

27,000 m³ of new fish habitat

3.2 Fishing Development *cont.*



'Salmonitis' Hits WA

- WA enjoys access to the world's best land-based sportfish
- Recfishwest encouraged people to experience catching salmon on our world-class beaches
- Salmon season is accessible for all fishers



Esperance Locals Build Reef by Hand

- 128 modules produced from 150 tonnes of concrete
- The local community and volunteers rolled up their sleeves
- Another example of the RFIF investing in habitat enhancement



Record Marlin Caught

- Exmouth landed the WA marlin record
- This catch placed Exmouth on the world sportfishing stage
- A fantastic boost for fishing tourism in WA





3.3 Events and Community

"The relationships we have with WA communities is something we truly value and take pride in. It is these partnerships that help us pave the way for generations to come."



3.3 Events and Community *cont.*

Recfishwest Fishing Clinics - from Point Samson in the Pilbara to Bremer Bay on the South Coast

2018 marks the 20th year that Recfishwest, in partnership with Healthway, has been delivering fishing clinics to kids and community groups across WA. In January we celebrated 15 years of summer holiday clinics in partnership with the local community in Bremer Bay.

During this time we have held over 1,100 sessions attended by more than 40,000 people. The success of our fishing clinics is due in most part to our dedicated and passionate volunteer clinic instructors, many of whom have been part of the Recfishwest team from the beginning.

Our Fishing Clinic Instructors generously share their expertise, knowledge and experience with WA's next generation of fishers delivering our key messages about safe, sustainable, accessible and enjoyable fishing.



Broome



Hillarys



Dongara



Kununurra



Bayswater



Albany



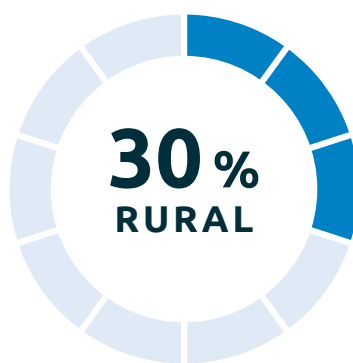
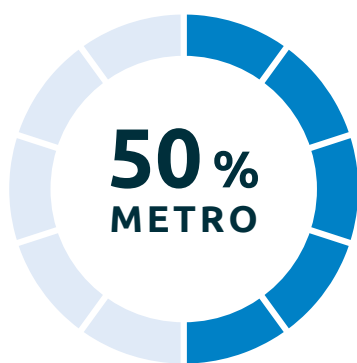
Bremer Bay



Dampier



Onslow



62 total fishing clinics
1805 participants
1230 parents and spectators

Fishing Clinic Partners



3.3 Events and Community *cont.*



Perth International Boat Show

- This year, safety was at the forefront of fishers minds
- A great opportunity for us to meet members of the fishing community face-to-face
- The Recfishwest team showcased affordable, comfortable and durable lifejackets



Purple Fly Fishing Program

- Recfishwest again teamed up with Breast Cancer Care WA
- A weekend full of wellness, mindfulness and fishing activities
- Casting For Recovery offers a hands-on introduction to fly fishing



First-ever TroutFest

- The Fisheries Minister announced a licence-free fishing weekend
- The event encouraged families to visit the South West
- Aimed to increase participation and celebration of freshwater fishing







3.3 Events and Community *cont.*



Another Year, More Snapper

- The second annual Snapper Guardians was held
- 5,000 fish released by 800 people
- WA kids are becoming the new stewards of our snapper

3.3 Events and Community *cont.*



15 Years of Bremer Bay Kids

- Celebrating 15 years of partnering with SunSmart
- Over a third of the kids involved had never caught a fish before
- Hungry herring were everywhere and fun was had by all involved



New Tech for Fishing Event

- Swanfish family fishing event is now a catch & release competition
- The new event app logged competitors and their catches
- Families were encouraged to experience and enjoy Swan River fishing



Tayla Designs New Lure

- The fourth year of the children's 'design your own lure' competition
- 12 year old Tayla designed limited edition members roosta popper lure
- Local lure specialists, Halco, continue their partnership with the competition



Point Samson Fishing Frenzy

- A 'catch, click and release' event
- Over 90 junior entrants got involved
- Aimed to promote safe and sustainable family fishing

3.3 Events and Community *cont.*



400 More Hooked on Fishing

- Free fishing clinics in Mid West coastal communities
- Introduced children and their families to best practice recreational fishing
- Both locals and visitors got involved in catching fish



Getaway Outdoors Sponsor Fishing Clinics

- Outdoor specialists partnered with Recfishwest
- Clinics encourage kids to get outdoors and involved in fishing
- Running for 16 years, these clinics have reached over 30,000 kids



All Boats and Caravans Sponsor App

- Boating specialists partner with Recfishwest to support fishing
- They became official partners of the Recfishwest app
- A fantastic alignment of two organisations passionate about the industry



Norm Halse Becomes Recfishwest Life Member

- Norm was instrumental in laying Recfishwest's foundation in its early years
- He has represented the interests of recreational fishers in various roles
- At 88, Norm continues to be a passionate supporter of recreational fishing

3.4 Fishing Safety

"As recreational fishing becomes increasingly popular and more accessible, it's crucial we continue to promote and educate people about the dangers of recreational fishing in Western Australia to ensure people return home safe to their families."





Free Loan Lifejacket Scheme

23 tackle store locations
offering 170 loan lifejackets.

Albany

Albany Rods and Tackle
Trailblazers Albany
BCF Albany
Little Grove General Store
Albany Migrant Resource Centre

Bremer Bay

Bremer Bay Rural & Hardware

Duke of Orleans (Esperance)

Duke of Orleans Caravan Park

Esperance

Tateys Bait and Tackle
Southern Sports and Tackle
Esperance Diving and Fishing
Dempster Sporting and Tackle

Hopetoun

Hopetoun Iceworks

Kalbarri

Kalbarri Sports and Dive

Katanning

Katanning Migrant
Resource Centre

Mount Barker

United Petroleum

South West

Augusta X-treme Outdoor Sports
Down South Camping & Outdoors
Dunsborough Outdoor Sportz

Steep Point

Steep Point Rangers Station

Quobba/Carnarvon

Quobba Station
Carnarvon Tackle & Marine
Tel-O-Mac Tackle

Angel Rings Installed at High-Risk Locations

Installation of 66 Angel Rings (life buoys)
at high-risk rock fishing locations.

Albany

Salmon Holes
The Deeps
Lowlands
Tourist Rock
Three Stripes
Maitraya
Cable Beach
Blow Holes
The Steps
Dunksy's

Denmark

Ocean Beach
McGearys Rock
Black Hole
Sinker Bay
Boat Harbour

Dirk Hartog Island

Quion Head
Urchin Point
West Point

Esperance

Twilight Beach
Wharton Beach
Quagi Beach
Starvation Bay
Thistle Cove
Hellfire Bay
Thomas River
Dolphin Cove
Skippy Rocks
Dunns Rocks

Kalbarri

Red Bluff
Pot Alley
Gulch

South West

Sugarloaf Rock
Torpedo Rocks
Canal Rocks
Wyadup
Merchant Rock
Slopeys
Round Rock
The Point
Boranup North Point
Skippy Rock
Gracetown North Point
Redgate Beach
Conto Springs
Knobby Head
Round Rock
Cosy Corner
Cape Leeuwin
Water Wheel
Cape Leeuwin
Lighthouse

Steep Point

False Entrance
Thunder Bay
Blow Holes
The Oven
The Fault Line

Quobba

Blowholes
Old Boundary
Loopy's
High Rock
2 Mile
Whistling Rock
The Ledge
Camp Rock
The Caves



3.4 Fishing Safety *cont.*

Achievements this financial year

- Easter Salmon Holes campaign
- 32,000 rock fishing safety flyers distributed statewide (annual basis)
- Fish and Survive campaigns – website, video, radio
- Partnership with the 'Bluewater Free Divers' in support of the launch of WA's own Fishing Survival Float for divers
- Promotion of fishing safety through media platforms including social media, website, smartphone app
- Increase in face-to-face engagement, including statewide fishing club events, the Albany Migrant Resource Centre, SunSmart Fishing Clinics, Perth Boat Show and RAC's Perth Caravan and Camping Show
- Abalone safety campaigns
- Rock lobster 'Snag It, Tag It' campaign
- Christmas/Summer lifejacket campaigns





Fish and Survive

- Online safety portal covering all types of recreational fishing safety information
- Online store stocks high-quality Crewsaver lifejackets
- Website includes articles, videos, tutorials, flyers and maps



Quobba Gets New Angel Rings

- Quobba station and Recfishwest installed life rings at high-risk fishing locations
- Businesses support free lifejacket program
- Community heroes help keep fishers safe



3.4 Fishing Safety *cont.*



Bluewater Safety Survival Float

- Invented by WA spearfishers and divers for WA conditions
- A towable safety storage float that can help divers in emergency situations
- Aids divers who have become separated from their boats



Safety First This Abalone Season

- Recfishwest partnered with Surf Life Saving WA to spread important safety messages
- Educated the public on risks involved in abalone fishing and provided tips
- The key aim was ensuring people return home safe



3.4 Fishing Safety *cont.*



Keep the Sand Between Your Toes

- Easter safety campaign for salmon fishing
- Included maps, videos, articles, and tips on how to catch salmon
- West Aussies were encouraged to focus on beach fishing over rock fishing



Snag it. Tag it!

- Western Rock Lobster and Recfishwest teamed up for a new safety initiative
- Recreational fishers encouraged to tag lobster lines or pots snagged by fishing gear
- Helping to keep commercial and recreational cray fishers safe

2017/18 WA Hot Bites

Recreational fishing provides huge economic and social benefits to Western Australia each year and Recfishwest would like to see more people fishing, more often, and to maximise the economic, social, and well-being benefits fishing provides to WA communities.

“WA has some amazing recreational fisheries, with people travelling huge distances to target trophy-size fish and search for the ultimate wilderness fishing experience. It’s important that WA’s recreational fisheries are managed in a way to provide world-class fishing opportunities for years to come.”





4.1 Albany's Australian Salmon

These incredible fish migrate along WA's southern coastline every year and support a thriving local tourism fishery for many towns between Esperance and Perth. Australian Salmon are highly abundant and present an excellent potential to increase the number of people fishing without any risk to sustainability. The pristine white sandy beaches of this coast combined with the splendid sport fishing qualities of this species truly makes this the world's best fishing on the world's best beaches.



4.2 Broome's Threadfin Salmon

While Broome has always been known as a great place to catch Billfish, recent changes to the management of fish stocks in Roebuck Bay have resulted in fishing experiences becoming the best in living memory. Roebuck Bay provides a wide variety of safe world-class fishing for families with small vessels, whether it's chasing huge threadfin salmon or investigating the nearby creeks for Barramundi, Broome provides something for everyone. For those willing to travel a little further for adventure, Broome can also be used as the gateway to the incredible fishing offered throughout the Kimberley.



4.3 West Coast's Western Rock Lobster

One of WA's most loved fishing targets, the Western Rock Lobster (or 'cray') is a highly sustainable resource and a huge part of WA's fabric. Extremely well-managed, the commercial and recreational fishing sector falls short of their allocation limits each season, meaning more crays are left in the water to provide excellent catches for fishers year after year. As the annual migration of crays to offshore waters occurs over summer (known as the 'whites run') and with the 2017/18 simplification of rules and season change, fishers can now access this sustainable resource in a safe and enjoyable way, all year round. A fantastic example of great management.



4.4 Exmouth Gamefish

Whether it is the amazing flats fishing, exceptional reef fishing, abundant shore-based fishing or world-class game fishing, Exmouth is known for great fishing and this year it got even better. In January, the capture of a 1,089 lb Blue Marlin in Exmouth provided WA with a wonderful and extremely rare tourism opportunity. There are very few places around the world where a grander (+1,000 lb Marlin) can be caught and avid fishers from around the globe will travel to these locations to try their luck. By combining the natural beauty of Exmouth with the countless opportunities provided by recreational fishing, Exmouth should be known as Australia's best fishing location.





4.5 Kununurra Barramundi

Catching a metre plus Barramundi is on many people's bucket list and the stocking of Lake Kununurra with 500,000 Barramundi has created an unrivalled opportunity to realise this dream. In an area free of salt water crocodiles and protected by calm waters close to town, Lake Kununurra is a unique fishery. While still relatively new, this exciting fishery offers safe, accessible and enjoyable fishing and is ready to take its place as Australia's premier Barra impoundment fishery.



4.6 Peel and South West Blue Swimmer Crabs

Everyone has a crabbing story. Being knee-deep in water chasing blue swimmer crabs around with a crab scoop with the family in tow on a warm's summer's day is a part of the West Aussie lifestyle. It's a fact that Blue Swimmer Crabs are WA's most caught recreational species which proves the love affair West Australians have with this household fish. But it could be even better! Imagine experiencing crabbing where the crabs are abundant, they are bigger and there's plenty left for generations to come. This is our vision and something we will be working to solidify in the coming year. We want to bring back the big crab and make the West Australian crabbing experience world class.

SECTION 5

Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF)

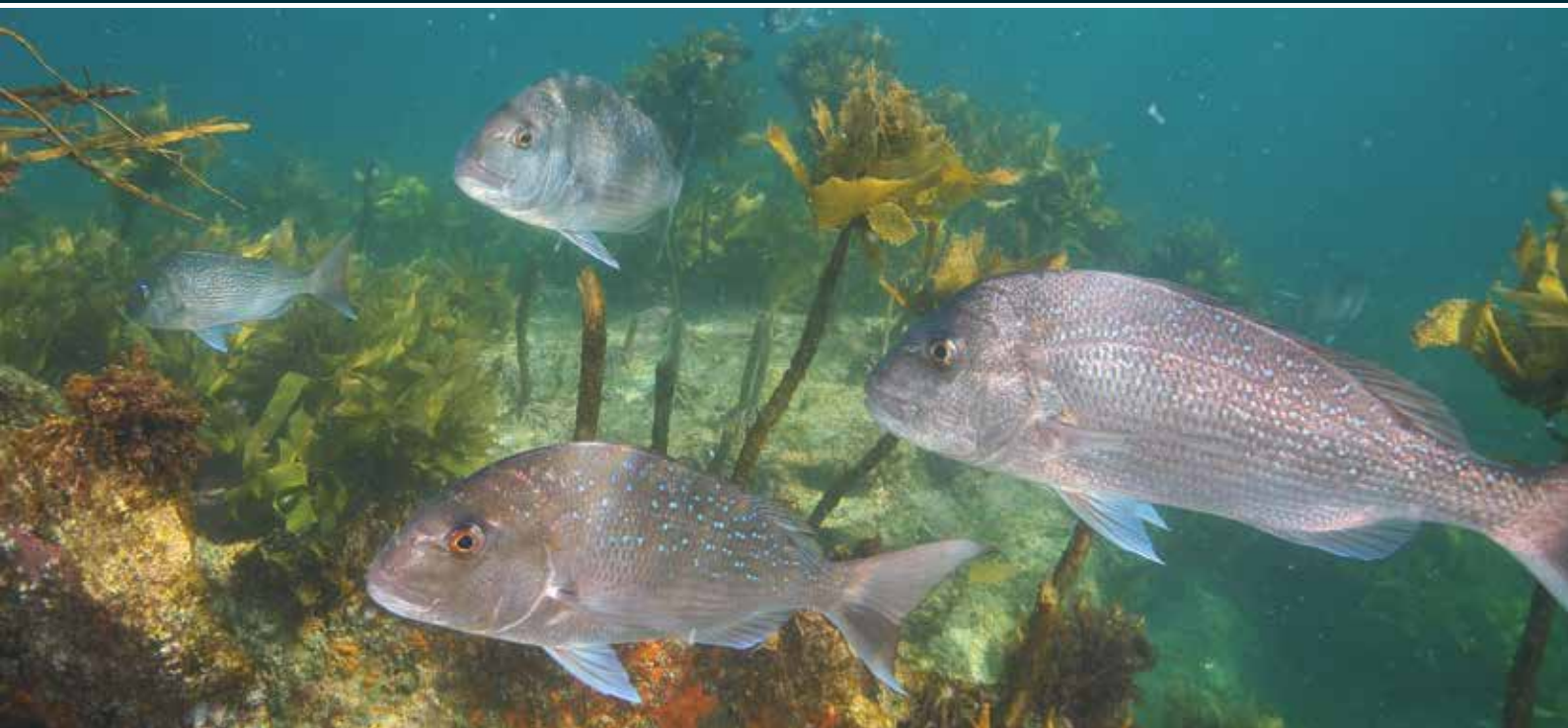
Every year 25% of recreational fishing licence revenue is allocated to the RFIF.

After a thorough application process which involves input from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, a prioritised list of projects is presented to the Recfishwest Board. They then provide recommendations to the Minister for Fisheries of projects that the recreational fishing community of Western Australia would like to see funded.





“These projects provide enhancement to WA’s recreational fishing sector and are an example of recreational fishers working together with the state government to ensure recreational fishing licence money provides benefits to the sector.”







RFIF Projects Announced 2018/19

Project	Cost
Swan River Habitat Restoration	\$67,263
Determining the Economic Value of the Recreational Salmon Fishery	\$83,738
North Metropolitan Artificial Reef	\$1,000,000
Goldenfish Initiative	\$88,000
Peel Reef Vision: Citizen Science Monitoring of the Mandurah Artificial Reef	\$109,422
Next Wave – Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing	\$110,000
Innovative Methods for Monitoring Recreational Fishing in Shark Bay	\$180,400
Fishability Schools Project	\$49,162
Guiding Principles for Accessing Urban Waterways	\$32,921
Stocking of Barramundi in Lake Kununurra	\$80,020

Community Grants

The Recfishwest Community Grants Program provides funding for small-scale projects which benefit recreational fishing in Western Australia. The grants are available to a maximum of \$8,000 for each applicant. This scheme is funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and is supported by the Western Australian Department of Fisheries. Round Eight of Recfishwest's Community Grant Scheme Funding has been granted to the following projects:

2018 Recipient	Project Funded	Grant Amount (inc GST)
AAA (WA Branch)	Snag It - Tag It	\$1,500
Bluewater Freedivers WA	Freedive Spearfishing Safety Equipment	\$3,750
Breast Cancer Care WA	Letting Go "Purple Fly Fishing & Wellness Weekend"	\$5,500
Broome North Fishing Club	Broome Family Fishing Clinics	\$2,000
Cockburn Power Boats Assoc	Junior Fishing Clinics	\$2,200
Exmouth Game Fishing	GAMEX community engagement	\$2,500
Fishability	Fishability Digital Online Booking Project	\$3,300
Kalbarri Offshore & Angling Club	Kalbarri Kid's Whiting Comp	\$2,500
Mandalay	Mandalay Holiday Resort Family Fishing Competition	\$2,200
Marmion Angling & Aquatic Club	Safe Freedive Spearfishing Training Courses	\$2,200
Mary Island Fishing Club	West Kimberley Women's Fishing Clinics	\$3,025
Mandurah Offshore Fishing & Sailing Club	Fish Friendly Marina	\$2,200
South East Coast Recreational Fishing Council	Mallee Muster & Family Fishing Fun Day & Rock Bolts & Angel Rings Installation & Servicing	\$4,000
Shark Bay Fishing Club	Shark Bay Fishing Fiesta Community Engagement Package	\$2,500
Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club	Abalone Emergency Response Equipment	\$3,300
WA Coarse Angling Club	Golden Ponds - increase fish stocks	\$4,000
WA Undersea Club	Leadership Initiative	\$5,000

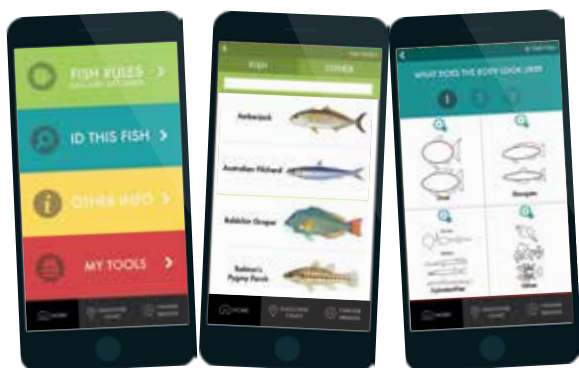


SCALE TO TAIL

Cookbook supporting sustainable fisheries (completed project from Round Seven of funded projects).



Communications



Recfishwest Smartphone App

66,000 USERS



All Boats and Caravans, proudly supporting our RFW App

Recfishwest website

25,000+
sessions per month

I Love Fishing website

35,000+
sessions per month

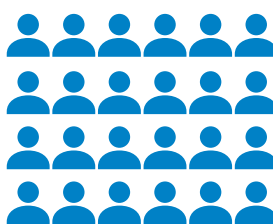
Fish and Survive website

1,000+
sessions per month

SunSmart Community Fishing Clinic Program



62
CLINICS



3,100
PARTICIPANTS
AND SPECTATORS



Getaway Outdoors & Healthway,
proudly supporting RFW fishing clinics

“It is through this communication network that our ability to maintain the authority to drive new initiatives and directly influence, engage and inform thousands of fishers in WA is made possible, making it integral to our existence.”



8,000+

statewide 'Fishing Report' subscribers

73,000+

recipients of the 'Broadcast' Enewsletter each month

15,000+

listeners to weekly broadcast of fishing reports on ABC Radio

Face-to-face engagement

fishing club events, boat shows and community events



Social media channels

18,240

Recfishwest Facebook followers

1,862

Instagram followers

1,010

Twitter followers

Association Reports

Australian Anglers Association (WA Division)

It is my pleasure to present this report for inclusion in the Recfishwest Annual Report for 2018 on behalf of the members of the Australian Anglers Association (WA Branch) Incorporated.

Over the past few years this report has shown that the Association has remained static with minimal or negative growth. I am pleased to report that the Association has grown over the last twelve months and that membership and participation levels have improved.

Due to legislative requirements to the Incorporations Act 2015, the Association has had to review and rewrite its Constitution. This has now been completed and is in place. Sincere thanks to the team who worked on this update as it was not an easy task due to the structure of the organisation.

The future for the Association is looking very positive with the Association's various

competitive events. There were some excellent results in these events although some were run in less than ideal conditions. These events have been well patronised and numbers participating have increased over previous years. Club involvement has also increased.

In recent National Championships conducted at Harrington in NSW, the small Western Australian contingent did extremely well, particularly in the National Dry Casting Championships.

This last year has been very successful for the Association and we look forward to this trend continuing. I would like to thank all members of the Association for their support and assistance.

John C Curtis

**President, Australian Anglers
Association (WA Division) Inc.**





Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA)

This year saw the 50th Anniversary of the club come and go. An event was organised that was worthy to celebrate this milestone and the club would like to thank the guest speakers on the night, namely; Paul Omodei, Craig Lawrence, Matt Gillet and John McConigley for their time in presenting various accounts of where the club has been and how it can evolve in the future. The club would like to thank Ruth Sprague from Recfishwest for all her work and guidance in helping the club find a very beautiful venue worthy of the club's 50th Anniversary.

The club was also involved with a very successful fishing fun day, held by Recfishwest at Drakesbrook Weir, with our members demonstrating fly casting, fly tying, and fishing with soft plastic and hard bodied lures, plus generally promoting the club. The public interest was beyond expectation, the result of which is that it looks like this will become an annual event.

Great satisfaction is obtained by club members who are involved with Breast Cancer Care

and Recfishwest's very successful Purple Fly Fishing weekend at Clover Cottage. This event is for ladies recovering from breast cancer who are taught the art of fly fishing and how it can aid in recovery.

The club has successfully run three competitions this year, the Fish-a-Fest, the Perch Bash and the Winter Wash. There has also been some exceptional fish caught during the year with several trout close to 60 cm being caught and returned, from both club dams and public waters.

The club also recognised the effort and time David Gellatly has put into stabilising the clay bank down at the cottage by naming it "The David Gellatly Native Garden". The club appreciates that others have been involved but if it was not for David's commitment and perseverance in obtaining and continually planting and watering the plants, it would be nowhere near as lovely as it is now.

Stewart King

President, WATFAA Western Australia



Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA Western Australia)

This year has been eventful with a number of firsts for ANSA WA.

The alliance with Info-Fish has been fruitful with the updated Track My Fish app being used for data input of tagged fish.

By using the app, ANSA WA is now able to run clean and green fishing comps around the state with dashboards for live competition updates and a no-kill weigh in that has proven to be very successful.

Tagging Data

Depth of capture was recorded for 2,301 dhufish. The recapture rate for fish tagged in over 100 m depth needs to be treated with caution due to

the low number (14) of fish tagged. The highest recapture rate was for fish caught from 0-19 m at 12.5% and from 20-49 m at 12.0%.

Release method was recorded for 1,142 dhufish, the highest recapture rate of 12.1% was for fish released using shot-line (release weight used to return fish to the bottom) while venting had the lowest recapture rate of 7.4%.

Our new westag.org.au website gives fishers the opportunity to view all sorts of info on tagging and state hotspots with capture update live postings.

Steve Wiseman

President, ANSA Western Australia



West Australian Undersea Club (WAUC)

The 2017/2018 financial year for the West Australian Undersea Club Inc was a successful one. For the third year in a row, we had over 330 financial members spread across Western Australia. Spearfishing is certainly growing in WA with a healthy future ahead. Thanks to Recfishwest and their subsidy, we put 30 members through discounted freedive courses, teaching them safe freediving practices. The majority of these subsidies went to members who are new to the sport. A part of any freedive course covers rescue techniques and responding to emergencies like shallow water blackouts. One should never have to put this knowledge into play, however, in May, one of our members did. An experienced diver shot a mackerel in 24 m of water and his speargun reel jammed. He managed to free the line, but in those precious few seconds, the fish

dragged him deeper. On his approach to the surface, he blacked out. This story could have easily been a tragedy. However, by the time he neared the surface his dive buddies were already there. Both buddies had completed a Recfishwest subsidised freediving course, so they recognised signs he was in trouble before he hit the surface. They knew exactly what to do when their friend's life was on the line and luckily a death was avoided. His life was saved thanks to the training which Recfishwest had been such an important supporter of.

Thanks to Recfishwest for their continued support of our club, Spearfishing in WA and representing our interests in local legislature.

Aleks Ceklic

Chairman, West Australian Undersea Club Inc



Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia (BFWA)

Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia has a current membership of 57 members.

Membership is made up of primarily of breath-hold divers interested in the spearing of pelagic and demersal fish up and down the West Australian coastline. Many of our members are also keen underwater breath-hold photographers.

On any weekend, you may find BFWA club members diving around the South West of the state chasing demersal species or collecting crayfish from the local reefs around Perth and Rottnest. Travelling to the Abrolhos Islands to the North-West of the state in the hope landing a Wahoo or Spanish Mackerel. Over the last 12 months, 11 new club spearfishing records have been accepted.

The club welcomes new members and provides a forum for all members to educate each other around diver safety and keep up-to-date with Fisheries and Environmental changes. The club aims to create a culture of safety awareness and the sharing of spearing knowledge.

With continued support from Recfishwest, our "Offshore Safety Float" project is ongoing. These new "Offshore Safety Floats" are designed to hold all your safety gear in the one place and are also able to be towed along by the spearo when offshore. Having all safety gear in one watertight and functional compartment has the intention of offering someone access to safety equipment should they become separated from their vessel.

The club has held several events for Members this year. Our first one of the season was the annual Crayfish Competition held during

November 2017. We then held a "Down South" club weekend away in February 2018. Based out of Hamelin Bay, members dived south of there and as far as Augusta to catch some nice fish to make tasty seafood on the BBQ that night. Our annual Pelagic Comp was eventually cancelled due to continuing reports of risky weather!

"Recfishwest Gone Fishing Day", was held Sunday 15th October 2017. BFWA had a diving for fish and crays day with potential new members, then a meet up for BBQ, beers and pizza.

Recent changes to the Commonwealth marine parks around Exmouth spearheaded by Recfishwest have proven to be well-received by all spearos and we are excited by the push towards equal and sustainable fishing access between recreational fishers.

Going forward 2018/19 season we hope to see more new members join BFWA and our club be a place where we can all share our passion for the ocean and safety amongst our fellow spearos.

A new website, new apparel and logos are being designed.

Supported by Recfishwest, "Freediver Recovery Vests" have arrived from the USA and will be available to club divers that have acquired training to use them.

BFWA club members are assisting the Australian Underwater Federation in the production of Australian wide diving safety videos, which have been assisted with a grant and support from Recfishwest.

Barry Paxman

President, BFWA Western Australia

Reference Groups

Recfishwest's reference groups are designed to provide advice and recommendations from fishers who have a great deal of expertise in specific fisheries. Recfishwest currently utilises the Western Rock Lobster Fishery and the South West Freshwater and Marron Fisheries reference groups to help guide board decisions, identify strategic goals and help with management arrangements for particular fisheries.



Western Rock Lobster Reference Group



Norman Halse (*Chair*)



Brian Snook



Michael Heslewood



Bob Urquhart



Ross George



John Baas



Rob Hoefhamer



Brody Laroux

Freshwater Reference Group



Ian Sewell (*Chair*)



Stewart King



Dave McVeigh



Russel Hanley



Liam Surridge



Peter Fragomini



Glenn Edwards



Nick Davis



Financial Statements & Governance

10.1 Audited Financials



The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members.



WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Board have determined that the council is not a reporting entity.

The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board the attached financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc. as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Chairman


T Bray

Dated this 26 day of September 2018

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

PRINCIPAL: RAY WOOLLEY FCA (UK) BSc (Hons)

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17 RUSSLEY GROVE
YANCHEP
WA 6035

PHONE: (08) 9561 6146
FAX: (08) 9561 6192

WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. (the incorporation), which comprises the committee's report, the balance sheet and statement of changes to equity as at 30 June 2018, the income and expenditure statement and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the Committee.

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. as at 30 June 2018 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of WA. and other appropriate Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the incorporation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the incorporation to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of WA and the Australian Charities and other appropriate Australian Accounting Standards. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of WA and other appropriate Australian Accounting Standards and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the incorporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the incorporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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WA 6035

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ray Woolley Pty Ltd
Raymond Woolley
Registered Company Auditor No 16396
17 Russley Grove Yanchep WA 6035
Dated this 21 August 2018

WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.
Trading as RECFISHWEST
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	30/06/2018	30/06/2017
Income	\$	\$
Fisheries Grant	1,155,000.00	1,146,600.00
Other Grants	845,031.61	861,398.24
Membership	22,157.70	23,988.66
Interest	8,015.36	10,389.31
Inventory Sales	85,846.52	73,937.05
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	21,466.68	0.00
Sundry Income	5,488.30	6,503.61
Total Income	2,143,006.17	2,122,816.87
Expenditure		
Administration Expenses	321,837.62	350,855.61
Cost of Sales	55,208.76	49,825.43
Project Expenses	278,809.21	183,749.06
Salary and On Cost Expenses	1,152,741.92	1,171,950.02
Communications Expenses	226,665.39	237,857.10
Motor Vehicle Expenses	17,635.66	18,761.94
Depreciation	35,464.88	31,428.89
Smart Phone App	0.00	21,993.00
Total Expenditure	2,088,363.44	2,066,421.05
Surplus for the year	<u>\$54,642.73</u>	<u>\$56,395.82</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.
Trading as RECFISHWEST
BALANCE SHEET
As at 30 June 2018

	30/06/2018	30/06/2017
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	594,141.36	399,288.06
Cash on Hand	200.00	247.60
Trade Debtors	225,400.00	156,524.19
Inventory	10,783.88	8,507.71
Prepayments	16,450.53	29,512.03
Total Current Assets	846,975.77	594,079.59
Non - Current Assets		
Plant and Equipment at Cost	117,648.52	94,678.06
Accumulated Depreciation	-91,660.91	-75,147.06
	25,987.61	19,531.00
Motor Vehicles at Cost	112,973.59	104,648.71
Accumulated Depreciation	-17,666.11	-60,807.38
	95,307.48	43,841.33
Total Non - Current Assets	121,295.09	63,372.33
Total Assets	968,270.86	657,451.92
Liabilities		
Credit Cards	15,044.11	9,825.20
Trade Creditors	174,685.28	107,486.70
Accrued Expenses	54,977.70	59,352.70
Grants Received In Advance	191,319.00	40,418.00
PAYG Withholding Payable	18,525.00	17,755.00
GST Payable	7,924.18	21.79
Provision for Annual Leave	63,284.12	58,594.20
Provision for Long Service Leave	124,839.67	100,969.26
Total Liabilities	650,599.06	394,422.85
Total Net Assets	\$317,671.80	\$263,029.07
Accumulated Funds		
Retained Surpluses Brought Forward	263,029.07	206,633.25
Surplus for the year	54,642.73	56,395.82
Total Accumulated Funds	\$317,671.80	\$263,029.07

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2018**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA, and other applicable Australian Accounting Policies. The Board has determined that the council is not a reporting entity.

Statement of Compliance

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with Associations Incorporation Act WA, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107: *Cash Flow Statements*, AASB 108: *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, AASB 1031: *Materiality* and AASB 1054: *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a. **Income Tax**

The council is exempt from Income Tax.

b. **Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

PPE are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the council commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Assets below \$1000 are written off in the year of expenditure.

c. **Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the Board reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the Income and expenditure statement.

d. **Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the council's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. There is a contingent liability for personal leave not accounted for of \$128,770.

Long service leave is calculated at current rates based upon 13 weeks leave after 10 years.

e. **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the council has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

f. **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2018**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

g. Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue. Subscription Income is taken into account when received by the council.

Interest revenue is recognised on receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

h. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST Incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated Inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is Included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

i. Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.



10.2 Governance Statements

The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members. In order to achieve these objectives, the Board has broadly adopted the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations as amended in 2010 (ASX Principles and Recommendations). These principles have been modified so as to properly reflect the fact that Recfishwest is an incorporated association rather than an ASX reporting entity.

Purpose

The Governance Committee is charged with ensuring that Recfishwest, to the greatest extent possible, complies with the principles and recommendations espoused below. To this extent, the Governance Committee maintains a compliance report which is included in the annual report of the association and which records the association's compliance with each of these principles and recommendations in the preceding twelve months.

The Recfishwest Governance Committee regularly reviews its governance systems with the aim of ensuring that Recfishwest continues its commitment to good corporate governance by having regard to all relevant developments in its operating environment.

The Nomination and Remunerations Committee is responsible for scheduling performance reviews of each Director and the CEO which is tabled at the Board level for discussion and recommendations with respect to remuneration and professional development. Board performance reviews are undertaken every second year. The last review took place in September 2017.

Recfishwest Board and management recognise that effective risk management is integral to the continued maintenance and governance of our business and requires a structured risk management framework and approach.

Our Risk Management Framework includes a defined risk management process to identify, assess, evaluate, treat, and monitor risks. Our risk management approach is based on a practical and pragmatic approach integrated into our business planning and decision making.

Recfishwest's Risk Management Framework includes a documented Business Risk Register which records identified risks and information about the assessment, evaluation and treatment of business risks. The Business Risk Register allows for ongoing review and monitoring of the risks to ensure they remain current, with current, effective controls and risk levels that remain acceptable to Recfishwest.

Our risk management framework and approach is based on good practice risk management:

- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines
- HB 327:2010 Communicating and Consulting about Risk.
- HB 436:2013 Risk Management Guidelines – Companion to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009.

10.2 Governance Statements *cont.*

		Location in 2018 Annual Report (AR) or on website	Compliance
Principle 1 - Lay solid foundations for management and oversight			
1.1	Establish the functions reserved for the Board and those delegated to senior executives and disclose those functions.	Website: See Delegations Register	Yes
1.2	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of senior executives.	AR: Recfishwest Governance Statement	Yes
Principle 2 - Structure the Board to add value			
2.1	A majority of the Board should be independent directors.	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
2.2	The chair should be an independent director.	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
2.3	The roles of the chair and chief executive office should not be exercised by the same individual.	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
2.4	The Board should establish a nomination committee.	AR Section 1: The Board Website: See Nominations and Remunerations Committee Charter	Yes Yes
2.5	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of the Board, its committees and individual directors.	AR Section 10: Recfishwest Governance Statement	Yes
Principle 3 - Promote ethical and responsible decision making			
3.1	Establish a code of conduct and disclose the code or a summary of the code as to:	Website: See Code of Conduct for Board of Directors; and	Yes
3.1.1	The practices necessary to maintain confidence in the Company's integrity.	Code of Conduct for Employees	
3.1.2	The practices necessary to take into account their legal obligations and the reasonable expectations of Recfishwest stakeholders.	Website: See Whistle-blower Policy	
3.1.3	The responsibility and accountability of individuals for reporting and investigating reports of unethical practices.		
Principle 4 - Safeguard integrity in financial reporting			
4.1	The Board should establish an audit committee.	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes

10.2 Governance Statements *cont.*

		Location in 2018 Annual Report (AR) or on website	Compliance
4.2	Structure the audit committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists only of non-executive directors. • Consists of a majority of independent directors. • Is chaired by an independent chair, who is not chair of the Board. • Has at least three members. 	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
4.3	The audit committee should have a formal charter.	Website: See Finance Audit & Risk Committee Charter	Yes
Principle 5 - Respect the rights of members			
5.1	Design a communications policy for promoting effective communication with members encouraging their participation at general meetings and disclose their policy or a summary of that policy.	Website: See Communication Committee Charter and Communications Policy	Yes
Principle 6 - Recognise and manage risk			
6.1	Establish policies for the oversight and management of material business risks and disclose a summary of those policies.	Website: See Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Charter	Yes
6.2	The Board should require management to design and implement the risk management and internal control system to manage the Company's material business risks and report to it on whether those risks are being managed effectively. The Board should disclose that management has reported to it as to the effectiveness of the Company's management of its material business risks.	Website: See Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Charter AR Section 10: Recfishwest Governance Statement	Yes
Principle 7 - Remunerate fairly and responsibly			
7.1	Establish a remuneration committee.	AR Section 1: The Board Website: See Nominations and Remunerations Committee Charter	Yes
7.2	Structure the remuneration committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists of a majority of independent directors. • Is chaired by an independent chair. • Has at least three members. 	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
7.3	Clearly distinguish the structure of non-executive directors' remuneration from that of executive directors and senior directors.	Website: See Recfishwest Constitution	Yes





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