



Annual Report

20/21

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

**Partnerships and Business
Development Manager**
Tim Grose

Business Support Manager
Vanessa Abbott

Operations Lead
Matt Gillett

Communications Lead
Ben Carlish

Programs Manager
James Florisson

Operations
Aaron Moses
Sam Russell
Alanna Ellison
Sedin Hasanovic
Mike Minutillo

Communications Officer
Zach Relph

Research and Development
Steph Watts
Sam Bock
Danielle Hartshorn

Business Support
Ruth Sprague
Nadin Abougahl
Sarah Craig

Auditor
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Letter from the Fisheries Minister

“Recfishwest perform an extremely important role in providing advice to and working collaboratively with Government, and I can assure you they strongly represent the interests of their members and the more than 750,000 recreational fishers in Western Australia. ”

- Fisheries Minister **Hon. Don Punch**



Western Australians love their fishing – and with more of us holidaying at home, the recreational fishing sector has never been more important.

Since being sworn in as the Minister for Fisheries in March this year, I have been meeting with stakeholders and getting the lay of the land for all things fishing. I have quickly learned of the extraordinary economic and social contributions made by recreational fishers to Western Australia, including that recreational fishing is worth an astonishing estimated \$2.4 billion annual to our State.

The rollout of the \$6 million package of recreational fishing initiatives, announced late last year as part of the McGowan Government's WA Recovery Plan, is continuing and will see recreational fishing experiences enhanced across the State once fully implemented.

The three-year package, developed through cooperation between the Department of Primary

Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Recfishwest, demonstrates the McGowan Government's strong support for the recreational fishing sector and the benefits it provides to the Western Australian community. It covers three project areas - the establishment of three new artificial reefs, stock enhancement and restocking initiatives, and a State-wide recreational fishing tourism campaign.

The first artificial reef funded through this recovery package is set to be installed off Albany with Broome and Kalbarri considered prime sites for the subsequent two new artificial reef projects.

These three new artificial reefs will be a boon for local fishing once established, just as the new artificial reef deployed offshore from Ocean Reef earlier this year generated much excitement amongst fishers both hailing from and travelling to Perth's northern suburbs.



The recovery package will also support the highly successful Lake Kununurra barramundi restocking program, and a stock enhancement initiative for yellowtail kingfish in the Perth metropolitan area.

A recreational fishing tourism campaign has also commenced. Projects promoting Lake Kununurra barramundi as a trophy fishery and the upgrade of Recfishwest's recreational fishing app have already inspired intrepid fishers to 'Wander Out Yonder' to some of our State's incredible regional fishing hotspots, providing important stimulus to our regional economies in the process.

It has also been heartening to see the support of Recfishwest and local recfishers for changes to ensure the ongoing sustainability of Western Australia's aquatic resources, particularly our demersal scalefish stocks. WA fishers love heading out to catch a healthy sized dhufish, pink snapper or baldchin groper among others. Our fishing community recognises the importance of fishing for the future – enjoying the thrill of the catch, not the size of the haul – and ensuring these prized fish can be enjoyed by future generations of recfishers. Recfishwest provided me with invaluable advice on the recent changes to the trip possession limit to secure the sustainability of demersal species, and it is great to see stakeholders

collaborating on the future management of this treasured, community-owned resource.

The issue of shark bite-off has also been raised with me a number of times in recent months. While there is no silver bullet to this issue facing many fishers, the Department have recently completed an 18 month-long project investigating the effectiveness of shark deterrents in mitigating shark bite-offs in north-west WA. It is hoped the new technologies trialled and the findings from the study will help fishers minimise the impacts of shark depredation.

Recfishwest perform an extremely important role in providing advice to and working collaboratively with Government, and I can assure you they strongly represent the interests of their members and the more than 750,000 recreational fishers in Western Australia.

The McGowan Government is committed to improving recreational fishing experiences and opportunities across WA and I look forward to continuing to work with Recfishwest in pursuit of this shared goal. Happy fishing!

Hon. Don Punch
Fisheries Minister

Board of Management

1.1 Chairman's Report



Welcome to the Recfishwest Annual Report for 2020/21 and on behalf of the Board I am very pleased to present such a solid report on the activities of Recfishwest over this period.

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

This clear understanding of our role has helped us to successfully navigate a challenging year dominated by COVID-19 and set up the year ahead.

Leadership and recognition

Over a long period of time, we have invested in our relationship with State Government and this positioned us well to ensure the Government continues to recognise the social and economic value of our sector to the WA community.

This was exemplified by Premier Mark McGowan in August 2020 when he announced the \$6 million recfishing COVID recovery package.

This package effectively doubles the value of the Recreational Fishing Initiative Fund for the next few years, which doubles the number of great projects we can invest in to make your fishing better.

The Premier joined myself and our CEO, Dr Andrew Rowland, to announce a commitment to invest in ramping up fish stocking along with three new artificial reefs to be deployed off regional centres.

Recfishwest had been working behind the scenes to secure this commitment and – as important as the commitment of dollars to deliver the programs was – this was a clear acknowledgment by the Government of the central importance of recreational fishing to the West Aussie lifestyle and economy.

This funding package has seen many great initiatives launched and enhanced over the reporting year of which the details can be found within this year's report.

We were also pleased to see this support continue with further commitments as part of the 2021 election. We are particularly pleased to receive the Premier's commitment to work with Recfishwest on the implementation of a WA Recreational Fishing Development plan. Work is already underway to identify sector priorities to guide resources and investments in recreational fishing for the next five years.



This plan will ensure Government concentrates its resources on areas that will bring the greatest benefit to our sector, and it will allow us to combine and focus efforts to improve our fishing experiences.

Protecting what's important to us

Cockburn Sound's value to the local community as a safe and accessible fishery, home to the West Coast Bioregion's biggest snapper spawning aggregation, is simply priceless.

That's why we were quick to express our disappointment when the State Government accepted the Westport Taskforce's flawed recommendation to build a new port in Cockburn Sound.

However, rather than just sniping from the sidelines, the Recfishwest Board met with former Ports Minister Alannah MacTiernan and former Fisheries Minister Peter Tinley seeking responses to ours and the community's concerns around critical information gaps left by the Taskforce.

As a result, we received assurances from the Ministers that those key questions would be addressed as a matter of priority well in advance of the Public Environmental Review scheduled for 2025.

We have a commitment to ensure appropriate scientific research into any potential impacts of a development on pink snapper, herring, squid, seagrass, ongoing access, and all the things that matter most to fishers in the Sound.

We will continue to scrutinise all of this very closely and continue to hold the Government to account on its proposals – the future of Cockburn Sound is simply too important to us and the community to not fight for it 100 per cent.

Membership and communications

A hallmark of Recfishwest's success in recent times has been our ability to grow the membership base and effectively communicate our key messages across the community.

1.1 Chairman's Report *cont.*

In this reporting period we:

- Distributed our Broadcast e-newsletter to more than 110,000 supporters each month;
- Achieved a Facebook reach of more than 2.6 million people;
- Had more than 183,500 downloads of our smartphone app.

This network and support are central to prioritising our resources and efforts towards what matters most for our fish community.

Listening and acting on your behalf is what we're here to do and we are actively looking to further enhance our consultation and engagement process providing greater opportunities for input on issues that matter to you – so watch this space.

A strong organisation

While putting runs on the board it is also important to note the strong financial performance that

shows that Recfishwest is being well run. With a healthy set of financials we can confidently say we are here for the long run and will continue to grow our capability and reach to do what we love and this is helping create great fishing experiences for all West Australians.

After seven years as Chair this will be my last Chairman's report. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this role and had the privilege to work with a highly talented team with particular thanks to my fellow directors and CEO Dr Andrew Rowland, whose passion and commitment have made Recfishwest what it is today.

Thank you to all our members and supporters for the honour to serve as Chairman and I wish the Board and the organisation all the very best – now I finally might just have a bit more time to go fishing!

Tim Bray
Chairman

“Listening and acting on your behalf is what we're here to do and we are actively looking to further enhance our consultation and engagement process providing greater opportunities for input on issues that matter to you.”

- Recfishwest Chairman **Tim Bray**





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



Committees

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.

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Governance Committee	Communications Committee	Nomination & Remuneration Committee
Geoff Ellis (Chair) Tim Bray Liam Surridge Dean Thorburn	Liam Surridge (Chair) Simon McLernon Dean Thorburn Ian Sampson	Jeff Cooper (Chair) Simon McLernon Emma George Luke Doherty (Associate)	Tim Bray (Chair) Geoff Ellis Liam Surridge

- Emma George appointed as non-executive director at 2020 AGM.
- Ian Sampson appointed as non-executive director at 2020 AGM.
- Kevin Gammage retired from the Board at 2020 AGM.

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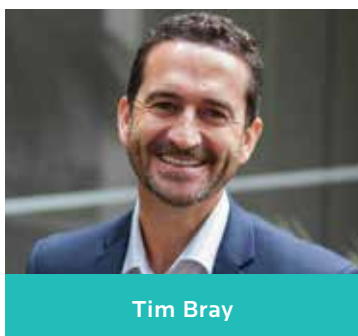


fishery

fish today for tomorrow



Board Members



**Non-Executive Director, Chairman,
Chair of Nomination and Remuneration Committee**

Tim is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chairman of Recfishwest. He is Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Tim has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2012. Tim worked as a fisheries scientist, fisheries manager and senior advisor to the Fisheries Minister 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.



**Non-Executive Director, Deputy Chair of the Board,
Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee**

Geoff is the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and member of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee. Geoff also represents Recfishwest on the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme. Geoff has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2011. Currently semi-retired, Geoff has been a Director of Supernova Motor Yachts trading as Offshore Marine 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 and member of the Motor Trade Association,

Board Members *cont.*



Liam Surridge

Non-Executive Director, Chair of Governance Committee

Liam is the Chair of the Recfishwest Corporate Governance Committee. Liam has a passion for recreational fishing, particularly fresh and saltwater flyfishing and lure fishing. He is an active member and treasurer of the Saltwater Flyrodders of Western Australia and treasurer of the West Australian chapter of the Australian Trout Foundation and a member of the WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association. When not fishing, Liam occupies a role in senior management (CFO and Company Secretary) in a commercial property development firm. As a qualified chartered accountant and member of various committees, Liam has strong financial and management expertise and experience with incorporated associations. He is also skilled at negotiating and reaching outcomes favourable to all stakeholders. Liam has a broad-based experience and a solid track record of involvement within the recreational fishing industry. He is strongly committed to see this important activity sustainably developed and to further the goals of Recfishwest.



Jeff Cooper

Non-Executive Director, Chair of Communications Committee

Jeff is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chair of the Communications Committee. Jeff has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2016. Jeff is the past President of the Broome Fishing Club and former Chair of the Broome Boating Facility Community Reference Group. Jeff is also a former board member for the Marine Park Reserves Authority and former representative of the International Game Fishing Association. Jeff is currently a Training Director at the North Regional TAFE. 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, as well as being a project leader for the Lake Kununurra restocking project. Jeff is highly 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.*



Simon McLernon

Non-Executive Director

Simon is a Non-Executive Director at Recfishwest and a member of the Governance and Communications committees. Simon brings a wealth of external experience from his work as an engineer from a variety of different industries over the past 15 years, including ship building and subsea engineering. Simon currently works as a subsea engineer specialising in rig-less well intervention at Baker Hughes' Jandakot-based offices. Simon is also a co-founder of technology company, Underwater Focus, which develop low-cost innovative solutions for marine and reef monitoring. Simon has previously volunteered his engineering skills to design and manufacture the Bluewater Safety Float to help increase safety for divers and other boat users. Simon has a particular interest in shark behaviour and is currently working in partnership with Sharkbanz to design, test and launch an effective shark deterrent device for Australian line fishermen in WA's North West. 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 two-and-a-half years and was the Vice President for two years.



Dean Thorburn

Non-Executive Director

Dean is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and member of the Governance Committee. Dean has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2011. Dean is a biologist with 15 years' professional experience in marine and aquatic studies and specialises in fish biology and ecological investigations of riverine and nearshore waters. 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.



Board Members *cont.*



Emma George

Non-Executive Director

Emma is a Non-Executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Communications Committee. Emma was elected to the Recfishwest Board in December 2020. A former pole vault world record holder, Olympian, World Championship representative and Commonwealth Games gold medallist, Emma moved from Victoria to Perth to pursue her athletic career. Emma remained in WA due to the lifestyle, fishing, camping and outdoor activities on offer and has lived here for the past 20 years. Emma holds a Graduate Diploma in Communications (Journalism) and a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) and Arts (Language). Emma has worked in marketing, communications and sponsorships and as a journalist at The West Australian and Channel 7. Emma is currently working as a freelance journalist, presenting for television programs, writing for various fishing, camping, outdoor and news publications, as well as presenting at fishing, camping and boating shows. Emma is passionate about getting children and families outdoors and interacting together in the natural environment. She has designed a website – Love The Outdoors – which provides information, ideas and how-to tips on fishing, camping and four-wheel-driving. A keen fisho, Emma loves taking her three boys out on the boat, fishing, scuba diving, freediving and experiencing nature at its best. Her goal is to see more families on the water and children being engaged, active and caring for our marine environment for future generations to come.



Ian Sampson

Non-Executive Director

Ian Sampson is a Non-Executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Governance Committee. Ian was appointed to the Recfishwest Board in December 2020. Ian hails from a sport-oriented family, spending winters playing junior footy for City Beach in his younger years. In the summer, Ian sailed the Swan River, Cockburn Sound, Owen Anchorage and off Fremantle Sailing Club along with some extended stays in Parker Point at Rottnest. Sailing remains one of Ian's passions today and he is still active sailing on a Farr 40 at Fremantle Sailing Club. A sailmaker by trade, Ian developed a business on Stirling Highway in North Fremantle importing, distributing, and servicing windsurfing equipment before undertaking his tertiary studies. Ian's tertiary qualifications include Master of Business Management (MBA), Post Graduate Certificate of Investigation of Commercial Crime and Juris Doctor (JD) (Law degree). He is also a Qualified Arbitrator and Mediator (ACI Arb.). Ian now practises law at Roundhouse Legal in Parry Street, Perth. Ian is a keen demersal fisher and can be found dab-netting for king prawns under the cliffs of Rocky Bay on winter nights, squidding local waters or land-based fishing around the metro area.

1.3 CEO's Report

"In the face of an ever-changing world, Recfishwest stand to protect fishing as a way of life in WA as well as the complex and much-loved aquatic environments upon which fishing depends!"

- Recfishwest CEO **Dr Andrew Rowland**



Welcome to another year's annual report showcasing our activities and achievements of 2020/21.

Some might question the importance of fishing in a world wracked by COVID-19 related social and political upheaval, environmental pressures and a growing collective anxiety about what the future might hold.

For us at Recfishwest though, we know all of this means fishing is more important than ever to the 750,000 West Aussies who enjoy catching fish each year.

Fishing provides us all with a boost for mental and health well-being, the opportunity to connect with WA's great outdoors and an activity to share with family and mates – not to mention the \$2.4 billion recreational fishing contributes to the WA economy.

The last year was unique and it saw more people enjoying the simple pleasure of fishing while holidaying at home. The benefits of which to many regional WA towns are almost impossible to truly measure.

It has been very gratifying to see considerable progress on many fronts over the reporting year, getting more fish in the water, creating more places to fish and by fighting to protect fishing access and what's important to us as fishers.

It's a reflection of the hard work, dedication and commitment of the Recfishwest team – staff, Board, members, supporters and partners – and I would like to thank all of them for their efforts and support. As you will see from the pages ahead, this collective effort continues to see our organisation punch well above its weight.

Leading responsibly and maturely

Being in a position of influence demands responsibility and maturity. In this regard, I applaud the regional fishing community displaying just that in voicing their concerns to us and the Fisheries Minister around perceived rises in fishing activity resulting from a spike in domestic tourism.

Following extensive consultation with our members and with our network of fishing community and industry leader contacts, we were able to provide advice to the Minister which saw the introduction of a "trip limit" placing a cap on the amount of fish fillets travelling fishers can have from highly valued demersal species, as well as much-needed reform of the problematic filleting at sea rules.

It should be noted we were very clear that the trip limit should be a precautionary measure



reviewed after 12 months to allow DPIRD to gather more data and get a clearer picture of what's really going on in the regions' fisheries.

Time and time again, we are heartened by the response and support we receive from communities in the fishing heartlands – this was no more the case than in Derby and Broome where we met with local fishers to support their response to proposed marine parks in the Buccaneer Archipelago.

In their initial form, these proposed marine parks – co-designed between Mayala, Bardi Jawi and Dambeemangarddee Traditional Owners (TO) groups and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) – threatened access to many of the key fishing spots in this vast and spectacular Kimberley complex.

Tensions were high as a result, but working closely with the local fishing clubs and the TOs, the heat was dissipated. Through constructive dialogue, it quickly became apparent there are many shared values between fishers and TOs, and there is now a prospect of a more favourable outcome being reached with the finalised marine park designs potentially meeting the needs of all in the community better.

Celebrating a southern sportfishing icon

The experience again underlined just how central to many people's wellbeing, lifestyle and what some call "spirit" fishing is.

This year's Awesome Autumn of Salmon was a true celebration and reflection of this and the passion that people have for this fantastic sportfish, with more than 1,600 people participating in our free app-driven Salmon Slam competition making it the biggest land-based fishing comp in Australia.

What really struck home looking at the hundreds of pictures entered showing proud smiling anglers with their salmon catches was the sheer diversity of participants. Men, women and kids, all from a wide range of backgrounds were all getting in on the action – demonstrating how West Aussie salmon is the people's fish in the State's south – with its abundance making the fishery so popular, drawing fishers from far and wide.

Ultimately, protecting, enhancing and keeping fishing experiences like these accessible for all West Aussies is at the heart of what we do and will continue to drive us forward.



1.3 CEO's Report *cont.*

Breaking new ground

In addition to ensuring our recreational fisheries and environment continues to be an important focus for the public, fishers and governments, Recfishwest is also focused on programs that support new opportunities and environmental resilience.

This reporting period, we held the inaugural three-day Fish in the 'Burbs event at South Yunderup, near Mandurah. The fantastic new initiative has set the bar in terms of engagement and a precedent for the creation of fishing opportunities in the middle of suburbia.

In the habitat enhancement space, we have been working hard to increase fishing opportunities by retaining and enhancing offshore structures that act as artificial reefs producing the fish we love to catch. This work has involved building lasting relationships with a broad range of stakeholders including government departments, conservation groups, petroleum industry, scientists, TOs and local fishers. We currently have 10 new reef projects under development through this collaborative approach to expand the current State-wide reef network.

Thanks for your support

I would like to give special thanks to retiring Recfishwest Board Chairman Tim Bray. In his seven-year tenure as Chairman, drawing on his rich corporate experience in the boardroom, Tim has been pivotal in evolving Recfishwest's strategic direction and culture helping us become a highly professional and highly regarded organisation at the top level.

This has seen our influence shift from being a sidebar in the decision-making process to being right at its heart, driving the agenda for change to attain the best outcomes possible for our community.

In the face of an ever-changing world, Recfishwest stands to protect fishing as a way of life in WA as well as the complex and much-loved aquatic environments upon which fishing depends. The support of our members is the foundation of our organisation – and to each of you I extend many thanks. This year we completely overhauled our online membership system to make it quick and simple to sign-up and we also improved the membership renewal process. This change not only improves our member service and helps grow our supporter-base but it also provides internal efficiencies that allow us to focus even more on our purpose.

In the coming 12 months, we are enhancing our member consultation and engagement processes. We have a renewed focus to better involve members in reinforcing our understanding of what fishers' value most. This new approach will allow us to better advocate for the rights and interest of all WA fishers – something we continue to recognise as the primary role of Recfishwest.

Andrew Rowland
Chief Executive Officer



News & Highlights

2.1 Representation & Consultation

In order to effectively represent the views of the recreational fishing community, Recfishwest undertakes consultation throughout Western Australia. Recfishwest engages with recreational fishers and stakeholders through surveys, meetings with clubs/individuals, regional consultation, correspondence, reference groups, association and industry working groups, as well as representing and promoting recreational fishing interests on various committees and at selected workshops and events.

Recfishwest uses this direct contact with our community to collectively gauge the attitudes, drivers, beliefs and aspirations of WA's estimated 750,000 recreational fishers.





This engagement has allowed Recfishwest to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Minister for Fisheries with qualified, consolidated advice on a range of recreational fishing-related issues, while at the same time allowing Recfishwest to communicate changes in fisheries management directly to stakeholders.

As part of this representation and advice Recfishwest continues to:

- Promote the interests of the recreational fishing sector;
- Provide strategic leadership for the recreational fishing sector on matters of significance;
- Raise community awareness in respect of recreational fishing issues;
- Raise sector awareness on a variety of recreational fishing issues;
- Provide support for Recfishwest members;
- Provide coordinated sector advice; and,
- Negotiate on behalf of the sector and provide a forum for negotiation/mediation.

2.1.1 | State-wide fishing rules changes

In June, DPIRD announced a series of significant WA-wide fishing rule changes which came into effect on 1 July, 2021.

The changes were announced to address widespread concerns from fishers about the potential impact on demersal fish populations in regional centres as a result of more people holidaying in WA amid COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The new rules introduced a new 'trip limit' designed to cap the amount of demersal fish fillets that can be bought home from a holiday while retaining the current fish possession limit at peoples' homes.

Changes included:

- 10kg trip limit of finfish fillets from any species plus 10kg of large pelagic species;
- Removing the unpopular 30cm filleting at sea rule, meaning fishers can fillet fish at sea, with no maximum size, or on an island before returning to the ramp removing some of the current rule complexity;
- Requiring a release weight onboard a vessel when fishing for demersal scalefish.





2.1.2 | Ensuring fishing access is kept in future Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks

Recfishwest has worked closely with the Broome and Derby fishing communities since draft management plans for three Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks were announced in December.

This included multiple visits to Broome and Derby to meet with fishers, Mayala, Bardi Jawi and Dambeemangarddee Traditional Owners and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Recfishwest outlined the need to preserve fishers' access to the safest and most valued fishing spots.

Recfishwest maintains that recfishers and Traditional Owners must continue to work together to ensure this special place is looked after, forever.



2.1.3 | Continuing to fight to protect Cockburn Sound and its pink snapper

In August, Recfishwest expressed “bitter disappointment” after the State Government accepted the Westport Taskforce’s flawed recommendation to build a new port in Cockburn Sound without knowing how this development would impact fish stocks, fish habitats or fishing experiences.

This was followed by Dr Rowland and the Recfishwest Board meeting with Ports Minister Alannah MacTiernan and Fisheries Minister Peter Tinley in December to highlight our concern.

It was impressed on the Ministers that a decision to push forward with the Outer Harbour port project without understanding the impact the development would have on fish stocks, habitats and fishing experiences in Cockburn Sound was a huge slap in the face to thousands of metro fishers.

The Ministers told the Recfishwest delegation the Government’s investments for the next phase of the project will aim to fill the information gaps and assist the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to determine whether the proposed port receives environmental approval.

Recfishwest will continue to hold the Government to account and protect Cockburn Sound.



2.1 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

2.1.4 | Scientists get their teeth into shark bite-off study



- The shark bite-off issue continues to be the biggest issue impacting recreational fishing experiences north of Geraldton.
- DPIRD's fishery scientists trialled a range of shark deterrents during tests, which also filmed sharks hitting baited hooks and hooked fish at the Abrolhos Islands.
- The work was part of a RFIF-funded project, surveying recfishers' experiences and views on the shark-bite off issue while also gathering more information to help find solutions.
- Recfishwest welcomed the project and continues to press DPIRD to draw on its world-class fisheries science to develop innovative solutions to address this longstanding issue.

2.1.5 | Representing recfishers' interests in the draft West Coast Demersal Harvest Strategy



- The 20-year recovery plan for demersal fish on the west coast is 50 per cent complete.
- Recfishwest helped design the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Harvest Strategy.
- The West Coast Demersal Harvest Strategy, sets out a framework for steering the ongoing recovery of the fishery.



2.1 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

2.1.6 | Protecting the Exmouth Gulf's wilderness fishing experience



- The fantastic fishing and wilderness experiences offered in the Exmouth Gulf are world-class and Recfishwest has continued to help protect the area from proposed industrialisation.
- Recfishwest met with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and provided a submission to their review of cumulative impact of development with the Gulf. We advised them industrialisation of Exmouth's lower gulf was not compatible with the area's wilderness values.
- Recfishwest was pleased proposed plans to build a pipeline fabrication and launching facility south of Exmouth, which posed a threat to the area's special wilderness values and the fishing experiences they support, were abandoned.

2.1.7 | Recreational Fishing COVID-19 Recovery Plan



- Recreational fishers support communities and towns across WA as they travel to their favourite fishing spots. In COVID times, fishing is more important than ever with more people holidaying at home and more people enjoying the pleasures of fishing.
- Fifty per cent of the \$6 million recfishing COVID recovery package, launched by the Premier and Fisheries Minister last August, is made up of RFIF funds.
- Investing in recfishing in WA is important because it supports the \$2.4 billion annual injection the sector provides to the State's economy each year.
- Highlights of the package include:
 - Artificial reefs deployed in Albany, Kalbarri and Broome;
 - The stocking of 1.2 million more barra in Lake Kununurra; and,
 - A three-year metropolitan yellowtail kingfish restocking program.

2.1 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

2.1.8 | Helping fishers cast a vote in the 2021 State Election



- Recfishwest has no political affiliation and always advocates for the best interests of fishing.
- Ahead of the 2021 State Election on 13 March, Recfishwest consulted with political parties with elected representatives to advocate for the best election commitments for WA's recfishers.
- The re-elected Government's commitments to fishing included:
 - Ongoing funding for Recfishwest and the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund;
 - Development and implementation of a WA Recreational Fishing Development Plan;
 - Reintroducing the Aquatic Resources Management Bill, which will include development of clear mechanisms of resource allocation;
 - Continue to work with Recfishwest and all relevant stakeholders to address the issue of shark depredation; and
 - \$35 million towards a boating facility/ marina at Entrance Point in Broome.

Recfishwest called on DBCA to address strong concerns around the unexpected closure of the Hooley Road 4WD beach access point to South Beach, Boranup. This is a very popular beach for fishers and access must be maintained.



2.2 Fishing Development

Recreational fishing in WA is enjoyed by an estimated 750,000 West Aussies each year, playing an important role in our metro and regional communities. Our partnerships with community groups and organisations helps make fishing better. Through these key partnerships, we are able to direct recreational fishing licence money back into community projects that significantly enhance recreational fishing experiences.

Here are some of the 2020/21 projects making fishing better for the WA community:

2.2.1 | Stocking is king as 30,000 yellowtail kingfish are released into metro waters

The trailblazing and ongoing yellowtail kingfish metro stocking program saw 30,000 juvenile yellowtail kingfish released into Perth's waters over 12 months.

A three-year commitment to stocking kingfish is part of the State Government's COVID-19 fishing package announced by Premier Mark McGowan in August, which aims to stock 150,000 yellowtail kingfish over three years.

Recfishwest is proud to drive this new initiative, alongside DPIRD's aquaculture team, to potentially unlock more diverse fishing opportunities for metro fishers.

All juvenile fish released through this program have their otoliths (ear bones) stained with special dyes to allow captured fish to be traced years later.



2.2.2 | State-wide fish aggregating devices (FADs) trial progresses

With two years of the three-year State-wide FADs trial now complete, the program is making great progress.

Funded by licence fees through the RFIF, the program began in late 2019 and has provided a popular new addition to the fishing landscape for thousands of fishers.

The latest season also entered new territory with FADs deployed off Geraldton, behind the Abrolhos Islands, and off Rockingham – in partnership with Mangles Bay Fishing Club.

With FADs also redeployed off Perth, Cape Naturaliste, Albany, Exmouth and Broome, the program's second season produced many memorable catches.



2.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

2.2.3 | Barra stocking continues to cement Lake Kununurra as world-class fishery



- The ongoing Lake Kununurra fish stocking program saw 100,000 fish released in December.
- This led to the one millionth fish stocked into the lake at a community release, just outside the reporting period, on 18 July.
- The well-managed program is a collaborative effort between Recfishwest, Lake Kununurra Barramundi Stocking Group, North Regional TAFE's Broome Aquaculture Centre and DPIRD.
- The Broome Aquaculture Centre will play an important part in fulfilling part of the State Government's recreational fishing COVID recovery package by breeding and releasing 1.2 million more barramundi in Lake Kununurra over the next three years.

2.2.4 | A new safe and accessible fishing mecca off Perth's north for small boat owners



- The anticipated north metro artificial reef – the seventh to be deployed off WA through the State-wide artificial reef program – was deployed 8km off Ocean Reef in May.
- Covering four Optus Stadium playing fields worth of ocean floor at a safe and easily accessible location off Perth's north coastline, the reef features 293 purpose-built modules.
- The north metro reef is based in 27m of water, with concrete modules ranging in height from 0.7m to 1.8m in an area of about 15ha of once-barren seabed.



Picture: Shire of Esperance

2.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

2.2.5 | A stocking program that could take marron fishing to the next level



- In February, an important freshwater stocking program got fully underway, which will see 300,000 one-year-old marron released into South West freshwater waterways over the next three years.
- Harvey Dam, Waroona Dam and Logue Brook are among the locations which will be stocked with marron over the course of the program.
- This fishery is unique to WA. With marron a South West icon, this program aims to boost the quality of marron fishing and potentially extend the marron season.

2.2.6 | A new era for land-based fishing in Esperance as new jetty opens



- The new Esperance Jetty opened in March, unlocking land-based fishing access to the town's passionate recreational fishers.
- Every coastal town should have a jetty and it's great Esperance has finally got its jetty back.

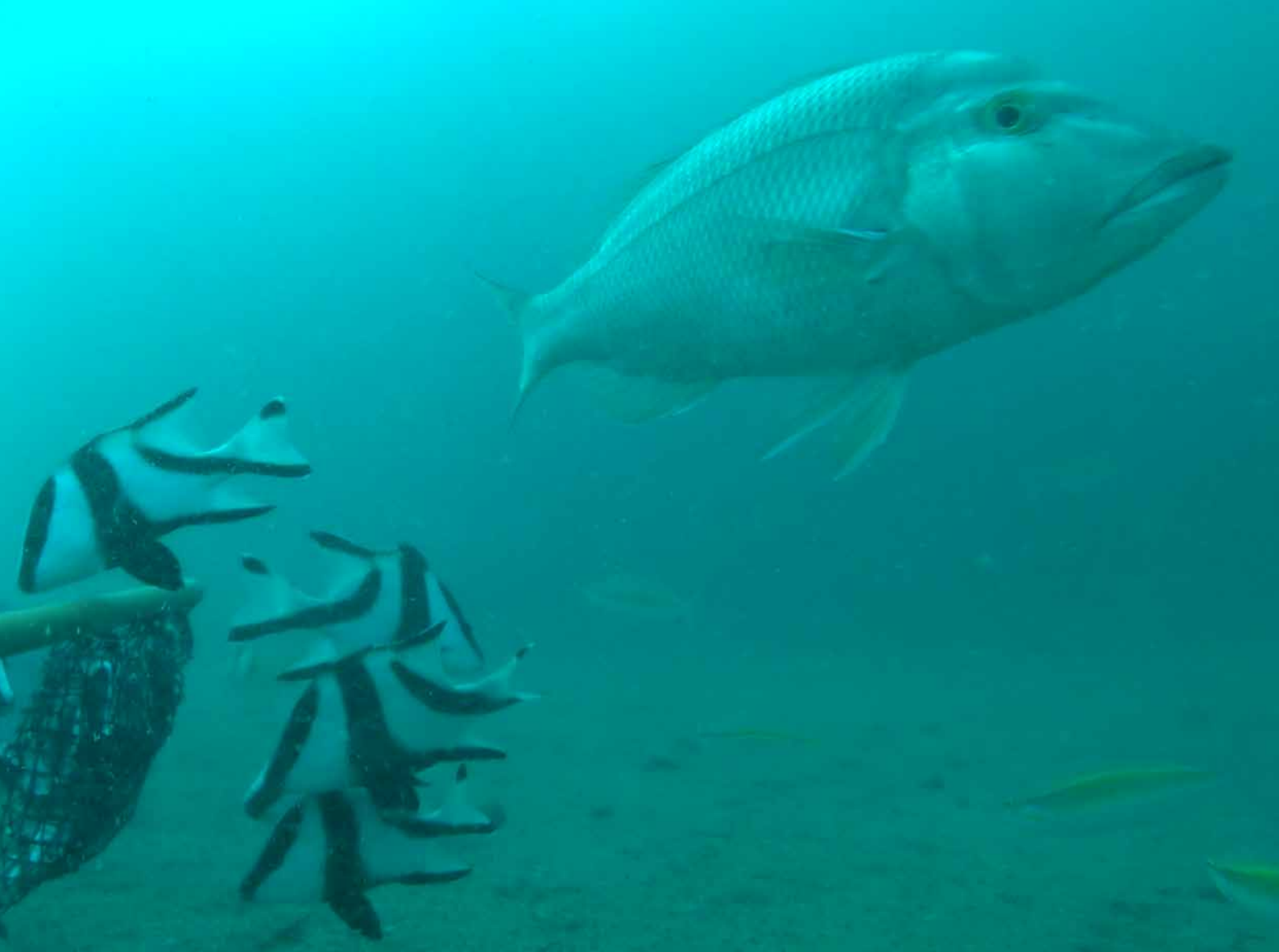
2.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

2.2.7 | Boat fishers launch back into cape as anticipated Canal Rocks ramp reopens



- The long-awaited opening of Canal Rocks \$1.6 million boat ramp and jetty was opened on 29 May.
- The new ramp provides much-needed access for many South West boat fishers to launch their vessels on the westerly side of Cape Naturaliste and head directly into oceanic waters.
- This is a fantastic win for recfishers and a testament to the spirit of the South West fishing community who fought long and hard alongside Recfishwest from 2017 after the State Government flagged the Canal rocks ramp was to be permanently closed.





2.2.8 | A new frontier for fishing in WA's North West

- Building on the growing success of the Exmouth King Reef project, Recfishwest has continued to work on developing a number of opportunities in the North West to repurpose and enhance existing infrastructure into thriving artificial reefs, increasing fish productivity and creating great new fishing locations for regional communities and visiting fishers.
- The Recfishwest artificial reefs team have progressed a number of permit applications for proposed artificial reefs off Onslow, Dampier and Port Hedland comprising of a mixture of in situ infrastructure already supporting highly abundant fish habitats and repurposed steel from terrestrial infrastructure enhanced with purpose-built concrete modules.
- All of these projects have been developed in strict alignment with Recfishwest's reefing principles and will undergo the Commonwealth Government's rigorous permit approvals process.
- Each has the potential to create exciting new fishing opportunities for species such as red emperor, coral trout, bluebone, mackerel and trevally.

2.3 Events and Community

Recfishwest attends, hosts and supports numerous community events throughout the year. Whether it be stocking fish or introducing families to fishing, we're always striving to protect, promote and develop sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing for the benefit of the community.

Here are some of the face-to-face engagement activities we have been involved in during 2020/21:



2.3.1 | Celebrating an iconic southern sportfish in the Awesome Autumn of Salmon

Following the 2020 Awesome Autumn of Salmon's abrupt end due to COVID-19, this year's three-month salmon celebration was a great success as fishers celebrated this southern sportfish icon. Supported by the Recfishwest and Western Angler magazine, this year's event involved a phone-app based competition, the Salmon Slam, and a three-day salmon fishing tournament in Albany.

More than 1,600 fishers took part in the Slam from March to May making it one of Australia's biggest fishing competitions. Recfishwest thanks the sponsors who supported the Awesome Autumn of Salmon and donated prizes to contribute to the event's success. Recreational salmon fishing directly injects \$331 million into the WA economy each year, with Salmon's fantastic recfishing experiences made possible by the abundance of the WA salmon population. Recfishwest will continue to ensure that high abundances of salmon are maintained to protect these experiences.





2.3.2 | Big smiles, fantastic fishing and radiant rainbow trout at Fish in the 'Burbs

The hundreds of happy snaps of smiling kids, proudly holding the trout they just caught said it all – Recfishwest's inaugural 'Fish in the 'Burbs' during September's long-weekend was a great success.

Held in the Austin Lakes Estate at South Yunderup, south of Mandurah, the trailblazing suburban fishing event was the first of its kind held in WA.

The project was funded through the Recreational Fishing initiatives Fund, supported by Recfishwest and made possible by Indo-Pacific Environment who managed the project.

Fish in the 'Burbs provided a family-friendly, free and fun fishing event for the local community during the long-weekend just a stone's throw – or, in this case, a line's throw – from their homes.

Hundreds of rainbow trout, bred and reared especially for the occasion, were released into this picturesque lake at the heart of the pleasant suburb.

It was great to have mad-keen families chase rainbow trout in the middle of a suburban setting.

The fishing more than lived up to expectations and it was hard to wipe the smile off the excited participants' faces, many of whom were children who had just caught their very first fish.

The 2020 Fish in the 'Burbs was an important landmark first, helping test the waters for the viability and demand among the community for fishing events held in suburban and urban WA communities.

2.3 Events and Community *cont.*

2.3.3 | Another terrific Troutfest



- Troutfest 2020, held on 5 October, saw more than 1,000 rainbow and brown trout varying from ex-broodstock to fingerlings safely released by the community into Drakesbrook Weir, near Waroona.
- This was possible thanks to the assistance of Recfishwest, the Shire of Waroona, Alcoa and staff from DPIRD's Pemberton freshwater hatchery where the trout are bred.
- About 300 freshwater fishing enthusiasts hand-released fish on the day celebrating the Peel and South West regions' fantastic freshwater fishery.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



2.3.4 | Pinkies released into Cockburn Sound despite Snapper Guardians 2021 lost to COVID-19



- The 2021 Snapper Guardians event, scheduled in January, regrettably had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 but this did not stop us from releasing 20,000 juvenile pink snapper into Cockburn Sound in early February.



Luke Scanlon, 8, won the Recfishwest-Halco 2020 'Design Your Own Lure' competition, designing 'Jango' - a red, purple and orange coloured lure - which was transformed into a Halco Slidog 105 stickbait!

2.4 Safe Fishing

Safe fishing remains a top priority for Recfishwest and a pillar of our strategic plan. Recfishwest continues to work tirelessly to promote the need for safe fishing behaviour to be part of every fishing experience, drive behaviour change towards safe fishing, model safe fishing experiences and invest in safety infrastructure across the State.

Unfortunately, not everyone returns home safe at the end of a day's fishing. Rocky coastline, hazardous conditions, slippery surfaces and poor decision-making all play a prevalent role in recreational fishing fatalities in WA.



2.4 Safe Fishing *cont.*

In 2020/21 as part of our State-wide Safe Fishing Strategy, funded through the Recfishwest Initiatives Fund, Recfishwest:

- Installed new angel rings near Margaret River and Augusta, bringing the total number throughout the State up to 86.
- Provided the Western Australian Undersea Club and Bluewater Freedivers of WA with the funding required to deliver a spearfishing safety program, which will include extensive safety training and the provision of specialized safety equipment.
- Undertook an extensive salmon season safety campaign through our own communication channels and through media in partnership with Western Angler, DPIRD and DBCA promoting 'keeping the sand between your toes' and fishing from the beach instead of the rocks.
- Undertook numerous communications and media interviews around promoting boat and rock fishing safety.
- Recfishwest, along with community partners and tackle shops, continued to provide the State's recfishers with free loan lifejackets across WA. There are 176 loan lifejackets available between Quobba and Esperance.
- Ran a joint safe abalone fishing campaign in association with Surf Life Saving WA.
- Provided the Shire of Esperance with a community grant to form a Coastal Safety Workgroup. The working group aims to raise awareness regarding the dangers that exist along the South coast. The workgroup consists of SES, Surf Life Saving, St John Ambulance, DoT, WA Police, SoE Rangers, Parks, Emergency Support and Recfishwest.
- Worked alongside Royal Life Saving Western Australia helping to develop their 'make the right call' safety campaign, promoting safe fishing practices.
- Recfishwest and Western Rock Lobster continued the 'Snag It, Tag It' safety initiative to combat the dangers of snagged fishing gear on rock lobster pots, distributing Snag It, Tag It danger at more than 50 tackle shops across the State.
- Extended the reach of messages to CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Groups through increased multilingual advertising in collaboration with Chinese newspaper Perth Epoch Times.

Our heartfelt thanks to local communities, land managers, Government agencies and our ambassadors in their continued efforts and support of the State-wide Safe Fishing Strategy.





2.5 SunSmart Fishing Clinics

This financial year, 31 fishing clinics were held across WA from Bremer Bay to Exmouth. COVID-19 presented challenges and multiple clinics were rescheduled, however, the success of the clinics is a testament of our volunteers and fishing clinic instructors' hard-work. To our volunteers and instructors who gave up more than 300 hours to help conduct this year's fishing clinics – thank you!



31
FISHING
CLINICS

2,159 PARTICIPANTS

Fishing Clinic Partners





Community Grants

Recfishwest also administers the Recfishwest Community Grant Program, which makes RFIF funding available to community-driven projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing in WA. This program invests into community projects which deliver highly valuable outputs and engender community support for fishing. Since 2011, the Recfishwest Community Grant Program has helped more than 85 community-based projects.

In 2020/21 the Recfishwest Community grant program funded 16 projects, including:

Applicant	Project Summary
APEX Kununurra	Support for 2021 Barra Bash
Ashburton Anglers Club	Equipment for events
Australian Trout Foundation	Preperation and printing of trout fishing guides for the Blackwood
Bank Anglers Club of WA	Stocking and fishing clinics
Dolphin Discovery Centre	Fishing Clinics
Exmouth Game Fishing Club	GAMEX 2021 community engagement package
Esperance Land-based Fishing Club	Support for 2021 land-based fishing classic
Harvey Districts Water Sports Association	Junior fishing clinic and open beach competition
Hillarys Yacht Club	Facilities improvement
Kalbarri Offshore and Angling Club	Kalbarri Kids Whiting comp
PEEDAC Pty Ltd	Aboriginal Documentary focused on fishing
Kids Cancer Support Group	Kayak Fishing Classic
WAUC	Ladies spearfishing weekend
Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club	Junior Fishing Classic
Western Australian Course Angling Club	Development of Golden Ponds
WA Game Fishing Association	Website update



SECTION 4

Communications

Recfishwest works hard to help effectively represent the interests of WA's recreational fishers. This is achieved by strong engagement with our grassroots, development of informative and engaging content, regular stakeholder surveys, consistent and clear messaging, well-developed communication plans and solid relationships with various media outlets, social media platforms and stakeholders.



Reaching our community

RECFISHWEST APP



183,500+
DOWNLOADS

(4.7 million screen views / yr)

11,000

STATE-WIDE WEEKLY FISHING
REPORTS SUBSCRIBERS

110,000

MONTHLY BROADCAST
E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Social media channels



24,000+
likes



2.6 mil
people reached / yr

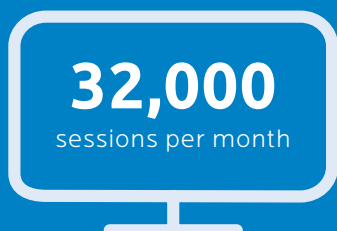


5,200+
followers

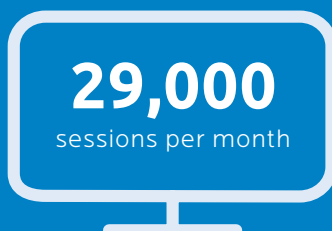


1,100+
followers

Recfishwest website



I Love Fishing website



Fish and Survive website



4,000+

PEOPLE ENGAGED EVERY YEAR* THROUGH
OUR SUNSMART FISHING CLINIC PROGRAM

* On average

15,000+

LISTENERS TO
ABC RADIO PERTH
WEEKLY FISHING
REPORTS AND
UPDATES

195

REPRESENTATIONS IN THE MEDIA PER YEAR

10,000+

reach on face-to-face activities*

* On average. These figures were down this year due to COVID-19 restrictions impacting on community activities

State-wide fishing tournaments,
community events, regional
activities, fishing club member
events and industry workshops

Partners

Recfishwest would like to acknowledge the ongoing support we receive from our members, project partners, business supporters, fishing clubs, volunteers and the WA fishing community.

Recfishwest recognises the following contributions from our official supporting partners.



Supporting our delivery of representative peak body advice to government on behalf of 750,000 recfishers in WA.



Supporting our State-wide SunSmart Community Fishing Clinic Program.



Supporting our work to enhance recreational fishing participation as a peak body organisation.



Supporting recreational fishing priorities and guidance for the recfishing sector.



Supporting our Fishing for Science Program in Dampier/ Karratha.



Supporting research and development to enhance our marine habitats and community fishing experiences throughout WA.



Supporting sustainable fishing in WA through our smartphone fishing rules app. Shimano is also supporting our fishing community through our weekly fishing reports publication.



Supporting the monitoring and promotion of King Reef, Exmouth.



Supporting our State-wide SunSmart Community Fishing Clinic Program.



Supporting our Troutfest community fish stocking event.



Supporting our State-wide Community Fishing Clinic Program.



Supporting research and development to enhance our marine habitats and community fishing experiences throughout WA.

Recfishwest recognises our official business supporters.
Together we are making fishing better.



Thanks for the ongoing support from our fishing association partners:



Association Reports

Australian National Sportfishing Association WA (ANSA WA)

This year has carried on much the same as last year, with the disruption caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

The association has been working with Infofish Australia, tagging data and receiving reports for members on the effects of COVID on fishing effort and locations.

Bill Sawynok has been conducting research into the changing fishing habits of anglers and what it may mean to stock numbers in catchments and rivers, all info available on the Infofish website.

One of WESTAG's latest developments is the Track My Fish app, allowing members to follow their tagged fish, if and when the fish is recaptured, we can now also keep

up-to-date on monthly data of tagged fish and recaptured fish along with species and quantities all via Periscope within the app.

Now with the updated data grid map system we have the tracking dashboard to view the movement and growth of different species at different locations along the WA coastline.

There are more options being added almost monthly, now up and running is the national fishing challenge running through the app. This activity is open to all ANSA WA and WESTAG members and fishing on a national basis with continual updates is fun.

**Steve Wiseman,
ANSA WA President**





Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia (BFWA)

The past 12 months have been fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by BFWA's members.

Our monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month, are a great way to catch up regularly and enjoy a BBQ. Discussions are generally about our recent spearfishing activities and club issues, such as past and upcoming events, environment and records.

BFWA has held fantastic events this year, with highlights including our family-friendly Hamelin Bay event in late November. Both boat and shore divers captured a nice range of species including abalone, crayfish, cuttlefish and King George whiting. Ashley Walsh always does a great job organising this event and it was a fantastic family weekend.

These fish caught were enjoyed by everyone in attendance during the award presentation, with diver Vin Rushworth claiming the

event's overall honours for his efforts.

The Pelagic Pairs event made a great return on 1 May, after the 2020 edition was cancelled due to COVID-19. Barry Paxman and Lee Paxman were crowned the Pelagic Pairs champions, weighing in a great bag of fish including an impressive yellowtail kingfish.

Our annual awards night, held at the Scarborough Sports and Community Club, was well-attended with everyone enjoying a great selection of seafood. Vin Rushworth was the crowned Champion Diver for the Year, snaring most of the major individual awards.

BFWA had a great year, highlighted by a number of memorable fish captures and events – we're looking forward to the next 12 months.

Steve Mattaboni,
BFWA Secretary

Boating Industry Association of WA (BIAWA)

BIAWA are involved in the outcomes of any planning and developments that are projected through Recfishwest and DPIRD.

The success of the relationship between Recfishwest and BIAWA augurs well for the work that still needs to be done on the management plans for each of the regions.

In addition to Commonwealth activities, the BIAWA sits, along with Recfishwest, on the State Committee which provides advice regarding marine parks and has

benefited from the leadership shown by Recfishwest in this forum as well.

Further to the years of implementation of fish cultivation, Recfishwest has succeeded in growing fishing and the growth of boating throughout WA. We once again commend management and staff – well done to all.

Recfishwest support for BIAWA events is an integral part of our commitment to the public recreational boaters and fishing activities.

Sheryl Swarbrick, BIAWA President

Marine Tourism WA

The Charter Boat Owners and Operators Association was incorporated in 1983 and is now known as Marine Tourism WA (MTWA). MTWA is a non-for-profit organisation and the recognized charter industry association in WA.

The fishing charter industry in Western Australia offers boat-based fishing tours of half-day, full-day and extended live aboard charters of two to 10 days duration primarily targeting demersal and pelagic offshore species. The industry operates tours along most of the WA coast. Masters and crew of charter vessels are highly skilled and require commercial master qualifications, including training at sea and certification from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

The 143 active Fishing Tour Operator Licence holders conduct around 7,800 fishing trips for more than 70,000 members of the community every year.

The 2020/21 year was especially challenging for the charter sector as they battled the impacts of COVID-19 travel restrictions, however, there were a few bright spots during the year that deserve a mention.

MTWA and Recfishwest were instrumental in developing the Rock Lobster Charter tour trial which is well supported and providing people who don't own a boat the opportunity to participate in the lobster fishery. MTWA also participated in the development of a harvest strategy for west coast demersal scalefish ensuring the economic and social value charter fishing provides is captured and factored into decision making.

MTWA also undertook the first ever study on the economic impact of charter fishing in Western Australia which is soon to be released. This exciting report will demonstrate the huge value the charter sector provides the WA economy especially to many regional and rural towns.

MTWA looks forward to continuing to represent the interest of charter licence holders and providing a quality experience for the community.

Matt Howard, MTWA President

Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA)

Over the past three years the club has become involved in helping support the Pemberton Volunteer Ambulance Service. So far, this has been achieved over the first two years through donations and this year saw us sharing the cost of implementing and installing a defibrillator at the club's cottage and club house which is in the north part of the Pemberton township at the end of Guppy Street.

This year has seen us move our activity venue once again, this time to a more central position namely the Batemans Scout Hall. The move has already proved to be a positive, as attendances have increased.

Although COVID-19 keeps rearing its head, the club has been fortunate in respect to being able to run its three major club events – the Fish a Fest, The Perch Bash and the Winter Wash. With overseas travel limited during the pandemic, we have also seen a vast increase, not only in members, but also in fishing

participation generally in the Pemberton area.

A concerned member of the club wrote to the Fisheries Minister asking questions about water flow and water quality in the South West streams and rivers. However, although a reply was received, it was somewhat disappointing as several questions were not really answered.

Once again, the club was involved with Recfishwest's Troutfest event at Drakesbrook Weir in October. With the help of many WATFAA members, we were able to offer an insight into fly casting, fly tying, soft and hard bodied lures and generally promote the club.

I would once again like to draw your attention to the hard work done by the staff of DPIRD's Pemberton hatchery. It must be rewarding for them to see that their efforts are having a positive effect on freshwater angling in the South West.

Stewart King, WATFAA President



WA Game Fishing Association (WAGFA)

WAGFA has 10 Clubs in the association, located from Broome in WA's north to Busselton in the south, with close to 1,000 members registered.

WAGFA continued to coordinate game fishing activities across WA, maintaining State game fishing records and data concerning open game fishing tournaments of its member clubs.

The association has historically represented the interests of game fishing clubs, and their members, at fisheries forums throughout Australia.

The association was a founding member of Recfishwest and has been represented at board or reference group level since

Recfishwest's inception in 1998. The Objects of the Association focus strongly on conservation and promoting ethical game fishing practices.

WAGFA wasn't badly affected by COVID, with many of the usual tournaments going ahead as planned. As with many clubs and associations, recruiting and holding onto volunteers to support our management committee has been hard but we continue to have diehard committee members that continue to assist.

WAGFA has been actively involved in submissions and projects and the support from Recfishwest and our national game fishing body Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) has been welcomed and appreciated.

Over the past 12 months we have ratified our new Constitution which was a large task. Without the assistance of Clubs WA, I am sure we would still be working on it. Other projects underway include:

- Sailfish and blue marlin fin clip research to provide DNA data for a national program. This has involved our Clubs in Broome, Exmouth, Dampier and Seaester Charters to assist WAGFA with this project.
- Working closely with Exmouth Game Fishing Club and Recfishwest for the artificial reef program through the integration of repurposed infrastructure.
- We have committee members working on a new website for the association to increase our profile after successfully obtaining a community grant through Recfishwest.
- Providing a response to the proposed marine parks in the Kimberley region – Buccaneer Archipelago.
- WAGFA and some of our clubs provided some financial assistance to King Bay Game Fishing Club for repairs to their club house and shack at Dampier.
- Record claims were down on previous years but this was attributed to some COVID restrictions. Our Recorder – Peter Babarskas processed 30 State, five Australian and three world records.
- Shark interaction continues to be a menace to our anglers so we have introduced a data card to record these interactions and upload into a spreadsheet for any future need.
- Promoting and supporting our Junior and Small Fry anglers continues under the management of Mick Grasso in Dampier. These are the future of our Clubs and association and we appreciate his efforts.

Rhyss Whittred, WAGFA President

West Australian Undersea Club (WAUC)

Spearfishing and freediving in WA has seen another year of incredible growth in popularity. This has been illustrated by a surge in female and junior members, driven by great role models in both WAUC and the wider spearo community.

Some highlights from the year for our 330 financial members included several competitions throughout the State, spanning as far south as Albany to as far north as Dampier.

A strong Leeuwin Current brought warmer water to the metro region, producing awesome

spearfishing. It was a factor which led to the most entries ever in WAUC's Mack 1000 competition, with several Spanish mackerel entered weighing more than 20kg.

The next 12 months are shaping up to keep the club growing. For us, we are excited to continue working closely with Recfishwest to drive safety initiatives and training to create more capable, safe divers. We want to continue to grow this great sport in WA.

Rory MacLeod, WAUC Chairman



Reference Groups

Recfishwest Reference Groups are comprised of passionate and dedicated fishers who are interested in contributing to the management of fishing in WA. The Reference Groups provide advice to the Recfishwest Board on issues associated with specific fisheries. Members apply through an expression of interest process and sit for a three-year term.

Positions on Recfishwest's Reference Groups are voluntary, and these members should be recognised and congratulated for giving their time to make fishing better.

The Western Rock Lobster Reference Group met in May, 2021, and the Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group also met in March, 2021.

Recfishwest's current reference groups and members below:

Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group	Advice on fish stocking locations Marron fishery management
Western Rock Lobster Reference Group	Eight Recreational Rock Lobster licence holders Advice on all aspects of rock lobster management

Freshwater Reference Group



Ian Sewell (*Chair*)



Liam Surridge



Stewart King



Russell Hanley



Peter Fragomeni



Glenn Edwards



Nick Davis



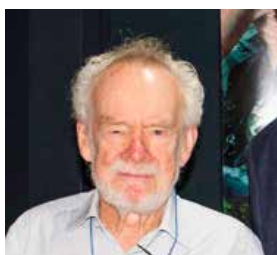
Dave Mcveigh



Western Rock Lobster Reference Group



Bob Urquhart (*Chair*)



Norman Halse



Brian Snook



Michael Heslewood



Ross George



Brody Laroux

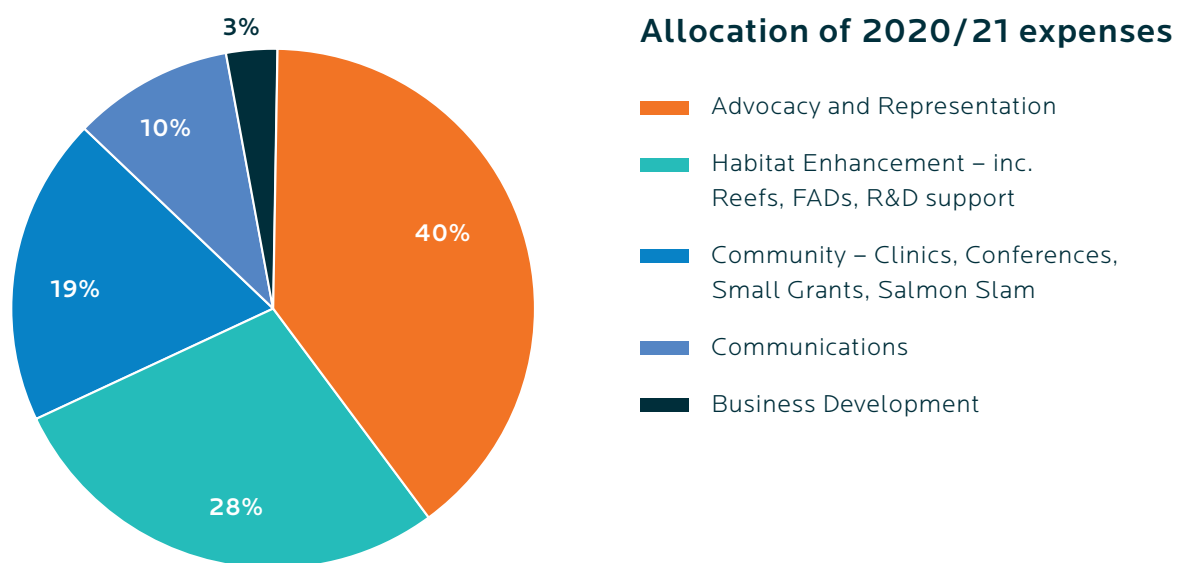


Rob Hoefhamer

Financial Statements & Governance

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

The Recfishwest Board, supported by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, sets and monitors annual expenditure to ensure organisational resources are deployed to best meet the needs of our members, our constitutional purpose, our strategy as well as obligations to our partners across a range of program areas.



The Recfishwest Board maintains a strong focus on financial security and long-term sustainability of our organisation in delivering against our purpose. This includes maintaining an Operating Reserve equivalent to six months of average operating costs which is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, or uninsured losses.

8.1 Audited Financials

Financial Report

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council

ABN 77 922 817 608

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Prepared by In focus Accounting Pty Ltd

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4	Balance Sheet
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Income and Expenditure Statement

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2021

	NOTES	2021	2020
Income			
Fisheries Grants Received		1,306,000	1,327,316
Other Grants		1,485,217	1,483,145
Interest Income		893	8,560
Membership		23,621	23,523
Other Income		73,721	60,741
Sales		22,005	16,842
Total Income		2,911,457	2,920,127
Expenditure			
Depreciation		38,217	35,537
Motor Vehicles	2	18,733	16,570
Cost of Sales		11,431	12,150
Administration Expenses		336,924	302,801
Communications Expenses		250,717	208,976
Project Expenses		336,124	459,653
Salary and on cost Expenses		1,662,809	1,494,352
Total Expenditure		2,654,955	2,530,040
Current Year Surplus		256,502	390,087

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Balance Sheet

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council As at 30 June 2021

	NOTES	30 JUN 2021	30 JUN 2020
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,461,663	1,313,980
Trade and Other Receivables	3	363,197	291,472
Inventories		10,918	6,198
Total Current Assets		1,835,778	1,611,651
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment and Vehicles	4	64,441	79,209
Total Non-Current Assets		64,441	79,209
Total Assets		1,900,219	1,690,860
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	37,762	53,199
GST Payable		13,766	36,493
Payroll Liabilities	6	317,257	268,255
Total Current Liabilities		368,805	357,946
Other Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses		46,485	92,600
Contract Liability		409,193	421,080
Total Other Current Liabilities		455,678	513,680
Total Liabilities		824,483	871,626
Net Assets		1,075,736	819,234
Reserves			
Retained Surplus		1,075,736	819,234
Total Reserves		1,075,736	819,234

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Notes to the Financial Statements

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2021

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015. The Board have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, 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 these financial statements.

Income Tax

The Council is exempt from Income Tax.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

PPE is 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 association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association 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.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the Council is entitled to it and is stated net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Interest revenue is recognised on receipt.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

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 assets and liabilities statement.

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.

	2021	2020
2. Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Fuel	13,399	11,153
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Registration & 3rd Party Insurance	1,218	1,845
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Repairs & Maintenance	4,116	3,573
Total Motor Vehicle Expenses	18,733	16,570
	2021	2020
3. Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade Receivables		
Trade Debtors	324,862	177,150
Total Trade Receivables	324,862	177,150
Other Receivables		
Sundry Debtors	-	88,396
Total Other Receivables	-	88,396
Prepayments		
Prepayments	38,335	25,326
Total Prepayments	38,335	25,326
Total Trade and Other Receivables	363,197	291,472
	2021	2020
4. Plant and Equipment, Motor Vehicles		
Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment at Cost	129,204	105,155
Accumulated Depreciation of Plant and Equipment	(101,349)	(82,377)
Total Plant and Equipment	27,855	23,378

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	2021	2020
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicles at Cost	112,974	112,974
Accumulated Depreciation of Motor Vehicles	(76,387)	(57,143)
Total Motor Vehicles	36,586	55,831
Total Plant and Equipment, Motor Vehicles	64,441	79,209
	2021	2020
5. Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Payables		
Trade Creditors	23,505	44,363
Total Trade Payables	23,505	44,363
Other Payables		
Credit Card	14,278	8,836
Total Other Payables	14,278	8,836
Total Trade and Other Payables	37,782	53,199
	2021	2020
6. Payroll Liabilities		
PAYGW Payable	40,698	24,688
Provision for Annual Leave	81,494	76,522
Provision for Long Service Leave	195,065	167,045
Total Payroll Liabilities	317,257	268,255

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Movements in Reserves

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
Retained Reserves		
Retained Earnings	819,234	429,147
Current Year Earnings	256,502	390,087
Total Retained Reserves	1,075,736	819,234

Statement by Members of the Board

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2021

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of the Association

The Board of WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council, certify that –

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2021.

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman

Signed:

Dated:

CEO



In Focus Accounting Pty Ltd

ABN: 16 009 252 019

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

DIRECTORS:
ANDREW LOWRY CA
LEONARD TEBBUTT CA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC A.B.N: 77922817608

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2021, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the statement by members of the Board.

Auditors' Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC as of 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING 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 Western Australia and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC
A.B.N: 77922817608**

Auditors' Responsibility

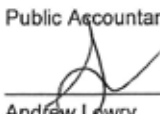
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Name of Firm: In Focus Accounting Pty Ltd
Public Accountants & Auditors

Name of Partner:


Andrew Lowry

Address: U9, 176 Main Street, Osborne Park, WA 6017

Dated this 17th day of September 2021.



In Focus Accounting

Tel: (08) 9444 9711
Unit 9, 176 Main Street Osborne Park WA 6017 – PO Box 250, Osborne Park WA 6917
Email: adl@infocusaccounting.com.au
Website: www.infocusaccounting.com.au
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation





8.2 Corporate Governance Information

The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members. Each year the Board provides a Corporate Governance Statement which reflects both the 4th edition of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (ASX Principles and Recommendations), and the 2nd edition of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Not-For-Profit Governance Principles.

Although applicable to listed entities, the ASX Principles and Recommendations provide a benchmark for corporate governance practices and Recfishwest is committed to reporting against them in so far as they are relevant to a non-listed entity.

The Board

The Board is responsible for the overall corporate governance of Recfishwest. Its powers are described in the Recfishwest Constitution. The objectives and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the Board Charter. The adoption of any proposed changes to the Constitution is subject to the approval of the membership at a general meeting. The Constitution and the Board Charter are available on the Recfishwest website – www.recfishwest.org.au

Board Committees

The Board has established a number of committees to assist it to discharge its responsibilities, particularly in relation to top-shelf governance. The objectives, responsibilities and composition of each committee are set out within individual committee charters available on the Recfishwest website. The Board approves the committee charters and reviews their membership annually.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee is charged with ensuring that Recfishwest, to the greatest extent possible, complies with the principles and recommendations espoused by the ASX and AICD. The Recfishwest Governance Committee regularly reviews its corporate governance systems to ensure that Recfishwest continues its commitment to good corporate governance within a dynamic and changing operating environment.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reviews and monitors the risk management and compliance program and the financial systems

operating within Recfishwest. The Committee reviews and monitors procedures to safeguard Recfishwest assets and interests, including accounting and financial reporting, compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards, and best practice guidelines.

Remuneration and Nomination Committee

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee assists the Board to fulfil its responsibilities on matters in relation to the remuneration policy for Recfishwest and the composition, skills and performance of the Board.

The committee is responsible for Board succession planning generally; Director induction and professional development; processes for recruitment, appointment and re-election of directors; and ensuring plans are in place to manage the succession of the CEO and senior executives.

Communications Committee

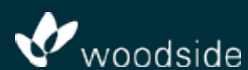
The Communications Committee assists the Board in supervising the external communications of Recfishwest to all stakeholders. The committee oversees the Recfishwest Communication Strategy, the development and operation of effective and efficient communication policies and practices, and membership services.

The Recfishwest Corporate Governance Statement is publicly available on the Recfishwest website: www.recfishwest.org.au

Please refer to the Recfishwest website for further information on policies that have been approved and adopted by the Board.



Supported by





Call (08) 9246 3366 | **Email** info@recfishwest.org.au | **Web** recfishwest.org.au

Visit Suite 3, 45 Northside Drive, Hillarys WA 6025 | **Post** Suite 3, 45 Northside Drive, Hillarys WA 6025