

26 February 2025

Dr Andrew Rowland  
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Via email: [andrew@recfishwest.org.au](mailto:andrew@recfishwest.org.au)

## **RE: 2025 State Election Manifesto for Recreational Fishing in WA**

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your recent letter and for sharing your manifesto along with the article, "Making fishing the winner in the State election." We appreciate your offer to meet and discuss your proposals, and I want to take this opportunity to provide you with the Nationals WA response regarding recreational fishing policy.

The Nationals WA is proud to support Recfishwest's \$70 million funding proposal to build resilient environments and secure abundant fish stocks for our future. This includes:

- \$40 million to install purpose-built reefs;
- \$7 million to establish a habitat enhancement program around jetties to boost productivity, biodiversity and fish abundance;
- \$3 million to support marron stocks through a habitat restoration program to boost dam productivity;
- \$12 million to expand the current stocking of pink snapper, yellowtail kingfish, marron, barramundi and trout;
- \$5 million investment in a research program to build capacity to breed and stock important species such as dhufish, flathead, abalone and native alternatives for trout;
- \$3 million to implement Recfishwest's shark bite-off plan in full.

Additionally, when in government, we will:

- Initiate comprehensive consultations with the view to upgrade and modernise our existing fishing jetties and platforms, ensuring they meet the evolving needs of our communities;
- Invest \$2 million to double the Statewide Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) program to 80 FADs, further enhancing sustainable fishing practices;
- Commit \$3 million to implement a statewide community stewardship program, empowering local communities to take an active role in protecting our marine resources.

These measures reflect our commitment to sustainable fisheries, vibrant coastal communities, and a robust marine environment across our state. The Nationals WA have been united with the broader fishing community on marine parks in Western Australia and the shambolic nature of marine park creation consultations conducted by the Labor government.

The Nationals in Government will go back to the drawing board on the South Coast Marine Park and undertake a Special Inquiry into the selection of all new Marine Parks in WA.

Finally, the Nationals WA is proud to announce that, once in government, we will re-establish the Department of Fisheries as an independent agency. This essential move will ensure that resources and expertise are strategically focused where they're needed most, empowering us to deliver stronger, more effective stewardship of our marine environments.

Thank you for your engagement and continued support. We value your dedication to the sector and look forward to the opportunity to discuss these initiatives further.

Kind regards,



**Shane Love MLA**  
Leader of The Nationals WA