

Recreation Fishing Alliance of NSW
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The RFA of NSW is encouraging all the anglers of NSW to apply for Federal funding of any worthwhile project through a new grants programme.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Press Release
Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme

The important contribution recreational fishing makes to local communities is recognised in the Budget, with \$15 million being provided over three years for a community grants programme. Australian Fisheries and Conservation Minister, Senator Ian Macdonald, said the funding was a reflection of the contribution recreational fishing made to our nation's social and economic well-being.

"The Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme will honour a Howard Government election commitment to provide grants of up to \$100,000 to community groups for local projects, while boosting the growth of an important regional industry," Senator Macdonald said.

Examples of projects for which grants could be available include:

- improvements at boat ramps
- funding for volunteer marine rescue associations to provide safety for anglers
- re-stocking programmes
- re-snagging rivers and waterways to provide fish habitats
- interpretive signage
- fish-cleaning stations and boat wash-down facilities
- improvements for enhanced local boating safety measures
- youth recreational fishing camps.

"The programme will provide a real opportunity to increase the economic benefit associated with recreational fishing and tourism by attracting more local and international visitors, while protecting inland and coastal waterways through education programmes," Senator Macdonald said. "Over 3.6 million people in Australia go fishing at least once a year, and 24 per cent of Australian households contain at least one recreational fisher. "In addition, Australians used more than 500,000 boats valued at \$3.3 billion for recreational fishing and spent \$1.8 billion on recreational fishing services and items during 2001. Fishing is an important part of our way of life and this funding recognises that the Howard Government wants to make it even more enjoyable."

Details of the RFCG programme, such as eligibility criteria and application forms, have not been finalised and consequently are not yet available.

If you wish to receive information on the Recreational Fishing Grants Programme, please subscribe via the link to the [recreational fishing grants subscription list](#). Or at www.daff.gov.au/cfmagiclistpro/joinlist.cfm. You will be contacted when these documents are available

For assistance on any of the above subjects, contact Joe Garufi. Publicity Officer RFA of NSW