

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

“Promoting Sustainable Fishing”

PO Box 328 Matraville, NSW 2036
Email: secretary@rfansw.com.au
Website: www.rfansw.com.au



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Dollars dangled to temp recreational fishing vote

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA) welcomed last weeks announcement by the Federal Fisheries Minister Senator Eric Abetz to continue the Commonwealths Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme (RFCGP), with \$15million being allocated over 3 years if the Liberal party is re-elected.

The Chairman of the RFA, Mr Malcolm Poole said that the RFA and several member organisations have completed a number of projects to date that have been funded from the current grants program.

One very successful project has been the expansion along our eastern coastline of the Rock Fishing Safety and Awareness campaign, developed in conjunction with NSW Sport & Recreation, NSW Fisheries and the RFA. It highlights to all fishers (in several languages) the basic rules which they should always follow when participating in one of the states most dangerous sports.

Another significant RFCGP project that NSW DPI Fisheries and the Alliance are jointly undertaking is to seek out and develop potential Future Leaders for NSW Recreational Fishing sector. This will provide the background and opportunities for 18 participants and mentors to follow a program developed by the Australian Rural Leadership team to hone and build their skills in advocacy, fisheries management, promoting change, enabling them to represent fishers in the future. To date the RFA has tapped into almost \$200,000 of funding grants from the RFCGP.

Senator Abetz also recently announced his ongoing support for Recfish Australia, the National representative recreational fishing group with core funding of \$100,000/yr for three years, and an extra incentive scheme to increase memberships by matching \$ for \$ to \$100,000/yr for three years. Whilst the funding commitment was welcomed, Mr Poole went on to say that this falls well short of an estimated budget of several hundred thousand dollars per year to truly operate and deliver a satisfactory level of service when representing the nation's 3.5 million recreational fishers.

Mr Poole stated that there was still hope when Recfish completes the current project investigating recreational fishing expenditure nationally, seeking out options for further discussion to secure a permanent funding stream. The benefits to recreational fishing all around Australia would be massive, cascading down and assisting the states and territories to respond to the concerns raised by many fishing groups, in fresh and saltwater.

The RFA welcomes the Ministers initiatives and noted that there are many other recreational fishing issues to be considered by all political parties prior to the November 24th election.

The RFA of NSW is also requesting feedback on recreational fishing issues from all the major and minor parties contesting the upcoming election with the intention of better informing the 1,000,000 anglers of NSW.

The RFA of NSW- “PROMOTING SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FISHING”
For more translated material and downloads on rock fishing safety visit
www.rfansw.com.au or www.safewaters.com.au or www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au