

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Promoting Sustainable Fishing



2 August 2020

Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann
Minister for Finance
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email financeminister@finance.gov.au
Cc: chris.browne@finance.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Recreational Fishers' Support for Reefbuilder Program

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA) is the peak body representing recreational angling associations, clubs and individuals in NSW.

We understand the Commonwealth Government is in the final stages of considering an investment of between \$20-45 million in shellfish reef restoration. The RFA wishes to express its support for the proposal and the benefits that reef restoration will provide to recreational fishers in NSW.

Australia's fisheries are highly dependent on healthy supporting ecosystems. Among Australia's diverse aquatic ecosystems, shellfish reef habitat is Australia's most important, and critically endangered. Once prolific throughout Australia's bays and estuaries, oyster reefs are now present in less than 10% of their original area. This has a significant detrimental impact on the economic and social vitality of many of Australia's fisheries.

Climate change, human interference and pollution have led to widespread depletion of shellfish reefs and associated ecosystems. Any work we can do to restore this vital marine habitat will not only improve the recreational fishery, it will also provide economic benefit to recreational fishing, commercial fishing, and related industries.

The RFA stands ready to participate in the scoping of such proposals and accordingly offers its support and looks forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gibson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter Gibson
Hon Secretary
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Email info@rfansw.com.au