

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Promoting Sustainable Fishing



18 September 2020

The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018 – 2028 (MEMS)

We are writing to convey the strong support of the Recreational Fishing Alliance for the NSW Government to approve the Stage Two Funding in accordance with the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018 – 2028 released by the Government in 2018.

MEMS funding has been focused on four key areas relevant for improvement of water quality:

1. Riparian rehabilitation - rehabilitation activities include stock management, fencing, off-stream water for livestock, weed control and natural and assisted riparian regeneration (including maintenance).
2. Riverbank protection - bank profiling, rock fillets, logs and toe protection incorporating landscape protection.
3. Erosion control for rural roads and tracks - including sealing of unsealed road approaches to waterways, improved drainage and sediment capture structures or diversions away from direct discharge to waterways.
4. Coastal wetland rehabilitation.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance understands the need for management strategies to protect the marine environment for future generations. We understand MEMS funding is responsible for many water quality improvement and fish habitat project initiatives. Projects of significance include the protection and restoration of wetlands, reducing sediment run off from dirt roads and addressing acid sulfate soil issues.

We acknowledge maintaining a healthy estuary is essential for the wellbeing of the ocean and estuary species we recreationally fish. Recreational fishers rely on the health of the marine environment to support fisheries and through the MEMS funding we hope to see significant achievements in this area.

Through our partner organization, OzFish Unlimited, more and more recreational fishers are building the capacity to undertake necessary ME restoration and their successes to date across the country are a testament to what is possible from our sector. We strongly recommend that future MEMS funding should support recreational fishers in undertaking the works we so desperately need.

Yours faithfully

Stan Konstantaras
President
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW