

NSW State Elections 2023

On 8 March the Recreational Fishing Alliance contacted major political parties and some independents to get their views on issues important to recreational anglers. We have replies from some but not all. The following table summaries their replies, showing “Yes” or “No” for each issue, with a dash where answers were not received.



The RFA calls on all State political parties to commit to the following	<i>Liberal/Nationals</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Shooters Fishers & Farmers</i>	<i>One Nation NSW</i>	<i>Phil Donato (Ind Member for Orange)</i>	<i>Roy Butler (Ind Member for Barwon)</i>	<i>Helen Dalton (Ind Member for Murray)</i>
Support the formation of a NSW Recreational Fishing Statutory Authority that, in cooperation with government agencies, would have the role of overseeing recreational fisheries management	—	Y	Y	—	Y	<i>In principle</i>	—
Support an independent review of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and how anglers' licence funds are spent	—	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	—
Support pausing the current review of NSW marine parks until a full review of the NSW Government's drafts has been made by their Advisory Committees and by key stakeholders such as the RFA of NSW, before any wider community consultation occurs	—	<i>See comment</i>	Y	—	Y	Y	—
Support a review of how the Environmental Protection Agency and Water NSW deal with water quality issues, especially the dumping of sewage in NSW waterways	—	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	—
Support a review of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> and the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> , with the aim of recognising the right to fish recreationally, provide in legislation to compensate recreational fishers for loss of access in any Recreational Fishing Haven or similar area, and to reinstate the right to fish recreationally in marine parks (as under the original <i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i>)	—	N	Y	—	Y	<i>Subject to sustainable bag limits</i>	—
The Office of Sport in NSW should officially recognise recreational fishing as a sport	—	<i>Partial support</i>	Y	—	Y	Y	—
Review the <i>Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016</i> , firstly to consider and recognise all forms of effective rock fishing safety attire, and secondly to ensure that all fine revenue collected under the Act is actually returned to the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund, as required under the Act, and is used for rock fishing safety education	—	<i>Partial support</i>	Y	—	Y	Y	—
Increase access to all our waterways with better, safer boat ramps, parking opportunities, land-based options like fishing platforms and greater access to national and marine parks in NSW	—	<i>Partial support</i>	Y	—	Y	Y	—

Some parties/independents made additional comments, and we have included those responses on following pages so you can read the details.

2023 NSW ELECTION RECREATIONAL FISHING POLICIES (Labor response)

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA) is the trusted voice of recreational fishing in NSW. We ask you to advise us of your position on the following issues so that we can share the information with our stakeholders.

The RFA calls on all State political parties to commit to the following	<i>Support</i>	<i>Do not support</i>	<i>COMMENTS</i>
Support the formation of a NSW Recreational Fishing Statutory Authority that, in cooperation with government agencies, would have the role of overseeing recreational fisheries management	<i>Support</i>		
Support an independent review of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and how anglers' licence funds are spent	<i>Support</i>		
Support pausing the current review of NSW marine parks until a full review of the NSW Government's drafts has been made by their Advisory Committees and by key stakeholders such as the RFA of NSW, before any wider community consultation occurs			A Labor Government will restore the role of advisory committees for NSW marine parks & bring all stakeholder groups together to make sure marine parks are enjoyed by the community while ensuring this does not work against evidence-based conservation of threatened marine species and habitat
Support a review of how the Environmental Protection Agency and Water NSW deal with water quality issues, especially the dumping of sewage in NSW waterways	<i>Support</i>		
Support a review of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> and the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> , with the aim of recognising the right to fish recreationally, provide in legislation to compensate recreational fishers for loss of access in any Recreational Fishing Haven or similar area, and to reinstate the right to fish recreationally in marine parks (as under the original <i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i>)		<i>Oppose</i>	
The Office of Sport in NSW should officially recognise recreational fishing as a sport	<i>Partial Support</i>		In government we would talk with the RFA to discuss this issue.
Review the <i>Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016</i> , firstly to consider and recognise all forms of effective rock fishing safety attire, and secondly to ensure that all fine revenue collected under the Act is actually returned to the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund, as required under the Act, and is used for rock fishing safety education	<i>Partial Support</i>		In government we would talk with the RFA to discuss this issue.
Increase access to all our waterways with better, safer boat ramps, parking opportunities, land-based options like fishing platforms and greater access to national and marine parks in NSW	<i>Partial Support</i>		Conduct an audit of public fishing infrastructure and amenities to make fishing more accessible, particularly for women and people with disabilities

2023 NSW ELECTION RECREATIONAL FISHING POLICIES (Shooters Fishers & Farmers Party responses)

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA) is the trusted voice of recreational fishing in NSW. We ask you to advise us of your position on the following issues so that we can share the information with our stakeholders.

The RFA calls on all State political parties to commit to the following	Support	Do not support	COMMENTS
Support the formation of a NSW Recreational Fishing Statutory Authority that, in cooperation with government agencies, would have the role of overseeing recreational fisheries management	Yes		<i>SFF's Right to Fish Bill 2019 which was designed in consultation with Recreational Fishers and was voted down by both major parties included a Recreational Fishing statutory Authority.</i>
Support an independent review of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and how anglers' licence funds are spent	Yes		SFF's parliamentary call for papers and questions in budget estimates have help expose serious concerns over management of trusts, we have already publicly called for independent review, and if not forthcoming will launch a parliamentary inquiry ourselves.
Support pausing the current review of NSW marine parks until a full review of the NSW Government's drafts has been made by their Advisory Committees and by key stakeholders such as the RFA of NSW, before any wider community consultation occurs	Yes		Part of SFF's Right to Fish bill 2019 included a moratorium on marine parks and pause. We have heard and seen evidence that suggests that the current review by DPI and MEMA has been flawed.
Support a review of how the Environmental Protection Agency and Water NSW deal with water quality issues, especially the dumping of sewage in NSW waterways	Yes		Water quality is critical to fish habitat and fish health, SFF will continue to pursue these concerns through budget estimates to force government to undertake a review.
Support a review of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> and the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> , with the aim of recognising the right to fish recreationally, provide in legislation to compensate recreational fishers for loss of access in any Recreational Fishing Haven or similar area, and to reinstate the right to fish recreationally in marine parks (as under the original <i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i>)	Yes		SFF's Right to Fish bill 2019 was exactly that, it was designed through heavy consultation, it included significant number of amendments, and one of its main focus was forcing proper consultation around closures, access and compensation for loss of access.
The Office of Sport in NSW should officially recognise recreational fishing as a sport	Yes		
Review the <i>Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016</i> , firstly to consider and recognise all forms of effective rock fishing safety attire, and secondly to ensure that all fine revenue collected under the Act is actually returned to the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund, as required under the Act, and is used for rock fishing safety education	Yes		SFF's Rockfishing safety Act bill 2020 did exactly that, but was eventually voted down by both major parties. SFF will continue to advocate for this.
Increase access to all our waterways with better, safer boat ramps, parking opportunities, land-based options like fishing platforms and greater access to national and marine parks in NSW	Yes		SFF has and will continue to ask questions, and make representations on behalf of fishermen and boaters around facilities. Both the fishing trusts and waterways fund need to be better managed to achieve this.

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The RFA calls on all State political parties to commit to the following	Support	Do not support	COMMENTS
Support the formation of a NSW Recreational Fishing Statutory Authority that, in cooperation with government agencies, would have the role of overseeing recreational fisheries management	✓		
Support an independent review of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and how anglers' licence funds are spent	✓		
Support pausing the current review of NSW marine parks until a full review of the NSW Government's drafts has been made by their Advisory Committees and by key stakeholders such as the RFA of NSW, before any wider community consultation occurs	✓		
Support a review of how the Environmental Protection Agency and Water NSW deal with water quality issues, especially the dumping of sewage in NSW waterways	✓		
Support a review of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> and the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> , with the aim of recognising the right to fish recreationally, provide in legislation to compensate recreational fishers for loss of access in any Recreational Fishing Haven or similar area, and to reinstate the right to fish recreationally in marine parks (as under the original <i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i>)	✓		
The Office of Sport in NSW should officially recognise recreational fishing as a sport	✓		
Review the <i>Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016</i> , firstly to consider and recognise all forms of effective rock fishing safety attire, and secondly to ensure that all fine revenue collected under the Act is actually returned to the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund, as required under the Act, and is used for rock fishing safety education	✓		
Increase access to all our waterways with better, safer boat ramps, parking opportunities, land-based options like fishing platforms and greater access to national and marine parks in NSW	✓		

PHILIP DONATO MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR ORANGE



ROY BUTLER MP

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR BARWON

10th March 2023

Peter Gibson
Secretary
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

RE: Recreational Fishing Policies for the NSW State Election

Dear Peter,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me and give the opportunity to provide a response to your proposed reforms and policy. Please see below my responses.

The RFA calls on all State political parties to commit to the following	Support	Do not support	COMMENTS
Support the formation of a NSW Recreational Fishing Statutory Authority that, in cooperation with government agencies, would have the role of overseeing recreational fisheries management	<i>In principle</i>		<i>Based on providing more detail on TOR and Charter of Responsibilities – is it supported by legislation</i>
Support an independent review of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and how anglers' licence funds are spent	Yes		
Support pausing the current review of NSW marine parks until a full review of the NSW Government's drafts has been made by their Advisory Committees and by key stakeholders such as the RFA of NSW, before any wider community consultation occurs	Yes		
Support a review of how the Environmental Protection Agency and Water NSW deal with water quality issues, especially the dumping of sewage in NSW waterways	Yes		

Support a review of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> and the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> , with the aim of recognising the right to fish recreationally, provide in legislation to compensate recreational fishers for loss of access in any Recreational Fishing Haven or similar area, and to reinstate the right to fish recreationally in marine parks (as under the original <i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i>)	Subject to sustainable bag limits		
The Office of Sport in NSW should officially recognise recreational fishing as a sport	Yes		
Review the <i>Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016</i> , firstly to consider and recognise all forms of effective rock fishing safety attire, and secondly to ensure that all fine revenue collected under the Act is actually returned to the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund, as required under the Act, and is used for rock fishing safety education	Yes		
Increase access to all our waterways with better, safer boat ramps, parking opportunities, land-based options like fishing platforms and greater access to national and marine parks in NSW	Yes		

Once again, thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Roy Butler MP
Independent Member for Barwon