



FISHING RIGHTS POLICY

Fishing Rights, Sustainable Use,
and Coastal Communities



WHAT WE BELIEVE

That fishing is a fundamental part of Australia's lifestyle, culture, and heritage. Recreational and commercial fishing provide enormous economic, social, and wellbeing benefits to Australians.

Access is being reduced without clear environmental benefit.

That Australians have the right to access and enjoy their natural waterways without excessive restriction or unnecessary interference. Sustainable fishing and thriving fish stocks can coexist with responsible access and use.

That fishers—both recreational and commercial—are important stewards of marine environments. Policy must be based on sound science and real data, not ideology or pressure from activist groups.

Funds raised from fishing licences must be transparently reinvested into fisheries, access, and habitat improvement.

Australians should have priority access to high-quality, locally sourced seafood.



OUR POLICIES

Fishing is part of who we are as Australians.

Yet too often, fishers are sidelined by policies that ignore common sense, local knowledge, and real science.

This policy restores balance—protecting the right to fish, supporting sustainable growth, strengthening local industries, and ensuring Australians can continue to enjoy and benefit from their natural resources.

Protect our waters. Back our fishers. Keep Australia fishing.

Protect the Right to Fish

Safeguard public access to fishing for recreational fishers across Australia. Oppose unnecessary lockouts, blanket bans, and excessive marine closures that are not supported by clear scientific evidence. Ensure fishing remains an affordable and accessible activity for families and communities.

Science-Based Fisheries Management

Require all fisheries management decisions to be based on transparent, peer-reviewed scientific data. Regularly review stock assessments to ensure regulations reflect actual conditions. Incorporate local knowledge from fishers into decision-making processes.

Responsible and Sustainable Growth

Support the expansion of both recreational and commercial fishing where stocks allow. Promote sustainable practices that ensure long-term viability of fish populations. Invest in habitat restoration, breeding programs, and waterway health to improve fish stocks.



Accountability for Licence Fees

Ensure all recreational fishing licence fees are spent directly on fisheries management, infrastructure, stocking, and access improvements. Introduce transparent reporting so fishers can see how their contributions are used. End diversion of funds into unrelated government programs. Legally ringfence all licence revenue.

Support Commercial Fishers and Seafood Supply

Protect and strengthen Australia's commercial fishing industry as a key food-producing sector. Reduce regulatory burden that restricts productivity without clear environmental benefit. Support local fishers to supply domestic markets with fresh, high-quality seafood.

Prioritise Australian Seafood

Promote the consumption and availability of Australian-caught seafood. Improve labelling standards so consumers can clearly identify the origin of seafood. Support policies that favour Australian producers over imported seafood where appropriate.

Push Back Against Overregulation

Review and roll back excessive or ideologically driven restrictions that limit fishing without measurable benefit. Ensure marine park and protected area decisions are balanced, targeted, and evidence-based. Restore fairness and common sense to fisheries regulation.

Strengthen Coastal and Regional Communities

Support fishing as a driver of regional economies, tourism, and local employment. Invest in infrastructure such as boat ramps, jetties, and access points. Promote fishing-related tourism and events to boost local



economies.

Partner with Fishers as Environmental Stewards

Recognise fishers as key partners in conservation and environmental monitoring. Encourage community-led initiatives to protect waterways and marine ecosystems. Support education and responsible fishing practices across all sectors.