

Securing the future of the iconic Rock Lobster fishery

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The Rock Lobster translocation project, which is backed by science, will inject \$47 million in capitalised value to the Tasmanian economy.

The East Coast of Tasmania will receive 150,000 translocated crayfish

Securing the future of the iconic Rock Lobster fishery

The Southern Rock Lobster fishery is one of Tasmania's most important and iconic fisheries, both for the commercial sector and the recreational sector.

However, in waters off the East Coast of Tasmania, the Rock Lobster fishery is stressed, due to the incursion of the sea urchin *centrostephanus*, with implications for not only commercial Rock Lobster fishers, but also for the economies of the coastal regions that rely on the commercial and recreational Rock Lobster sectors. Science recommends the rebuilding of the Rock Lobster biomass in these waters to combat the spread of these long spined sea urchins.

Further, the availability of large numbers of small, white/brindle Rock Lobsters from known stocks in south east waters, translocated to more beneficial habitats around the State, is a low cost way to add substantial value to the commercial Rock Lobster fishery.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will immediately move to secure the long term future of the commercial and recreational Rock Lobster industry in Tasmania, and provide the sector with resource security, by providing \$100,000 per year over three years, in addition to the commercial industry's contribution, to translocate more than 500,000 small Rock Lobster from waters in the deep south east of Tasmania to be resettled in known, appropriate Rock Lobster habitats around the State.

Backed by science and recommended by the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science (IMAS), this project will secure the long term future of the commercial industry in Tasmania, and has been calculated to inject \$47 million in capitalised value to the Tasmanian economy. It will also re-establish a fruitful recreational Rock Lobster fishery in all areas of the State.

How this policy will work

Our contribution of \$300,000 over three years, added to a contribution from the Rock Lobster commercial industry, will see the project commence the translocation process in 2014 and continue for three years.

Previous trials have shown that this translocation process is a sustainable, low-cost measure to manage Rock Lobster fish stocks with demonstrable, high quality outcomes, as the translocated fish achieve colour change and growth after their first moult and generally remain in their new home environment.

Management of translocation issues between commercial and recreational interests

In order to protect the interests of both the commercial sector and recreational Rock Lobster fishers, a majority Liberal government will also provide \$15,000 to the recreational fishing sector to conduct a pilot program with the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermans Association to maximise opportunities for recreational fishers from this translocation project.

As an example, the East Coast of Tasmania, from Musselroe Bay in the North East, down the East Coast to waters around the Tasman Peninsula, will receive upwards of 150,000 translocated Rock Lobster over the three year period.

Costings - \$315,000 over three years

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