

Taking Recreational Fishing and Boating to the next level



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Make it easier to wet a line from the shore with over \$2.4 million for new and improved land-based fishing infrastructure;
- Invest \$2.2 million in better boat and trailer parking;
- Install artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices;
- Freeze trout fishing licence fees; and
- Drive growth in fishing tourism in inland and saltwater fisheries



Protecting the Tasmanian way of life

Saltwater Fishing and Boating

Support for TARFish

We will continue to strongly support TARFish as the independent body representing the interests of recreational, saltwater marine fishers in Tasmania.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will provide funding of \$620,000 to TARFish over four years.

We will work with TARFish, through its networks, to consult and determine priority work assessments for all new saltwater fishing initiatives in this policy.

Easier for all Tasmanians to wet a line from the shore

Given Tasmania's island status, it's important that recreational fishing opportunities are made available to all Tasmanians, particularly those who have difficulty accessing fishing areas. In particular, better shore-based facilities will provide for safer and easier access for families, seniors and Tasmanians with a disability.

Over the years, some favourite fishing spots have been closed or lost due to development and we want to ensure land-based recreational fishing is easily accessible for everyone – no matter what your age or ability. A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will:

- Provide \$700,000 over four years in local government grants to improve access to jetties so all Tasmanians have an opportunity to cast a line.
- Provide \$685,000 to replace derelict jetties around the very popular Georges Bay area and work with the Break O'Day Council to provide safer access and facilities for children, seniors and Tasmanians with a disability; and
- We will provide \$250,000 for a community led Masterplan for the Bridport foreshore that will make recommendations in respect of future infrastructure upgrades to support the growing number of recreational fishers, boaters and beach goers. Better access and approved amenity will be considered through the Masterplan including:
 - A new Bridport Pier including pontoon access for recreational boaters with a location to be determined;
 - Boat ramps, associated parking and launching facilities; and
 - Improved access to the working port of Bridport.

Relevant Targets

#12: 50,000 tourism-related jobs by 2022

#13: A 50% increase in the average per visitor spend by 2022

#14: 70% of all visitors to stay overnight in regional areas during their trip to Tasmania by 2022

#20: Keep cost of living increases for Government services, on average, at or below the rate of inflation for the next four years



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Better boat and trailer parking

Often one of the most frustrating parts of going out for a day's fishing is the lack of parking opportunities for boats and trailers, especially on key recreational fishing competition weekends, causing much frustration.

We will work with local councils and relevant Government departments to expand and enhance parking facilities and identify overflow parking opportunities. A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will provide \$2.2 million over three years towards:

- Burns Bay, St Helens – expansion and surfacing;
- Pirates Bay, Eaglehawk Neck – expansion;
- Coles Bay – new parking development including relocated public toilet facilities; and
- Swansea, on the adjacent foreshore.

Improve off-shore catches with Artificial Reefs and Fish Aggregation Devices

Offshore recreational fishing has a huge participation rate in Tasmania, however, the further from shore a boat has to go to “catch a feed” the higher the safety risk becomes for recreational fishers.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will consult with anglers about the construction of two artificial reef structures in Tasmanian coastal waters at a cost of \$1 million over four years. One will be in Bass Strait off the North-West Coast and the second will be in Storm Bay in the south of the State, with actual locations yet to be determined.

As an example of effectiveness, the environmentally sustainable artificial reefs off the West Australian coast have been very successful with fish species quadrupling at sites off the coast of Dunsborough and Bunbury over two years.

These types of structures are used world-wide to improve catch opportunities for recreational fishers and boaters and result in direct benefits to recreational fishers by providing a range of new fishing locations and increased fish stocks and species.

Why Tasmania Needs this

Tasmania is surrounded by more than 4882 kilometres of coastline. Recreational fishing and boating is a way of life for many people and a significant contributor to our growing economy and jobs.

Almost one in four Tasmanians take to the water to go fishing every year – whether that be land or sea based and that means there more than 125,000 recreational fishers across the State.

Tasmanian recreational fishers spend tens of millions of dollars on retail goods and services, with expenditure on recreational boats estimated as having a value of more than \$435 million.

In terms of recreational boating, there are 59,711 recreational boat licences and 30,377 registered recreational boats in the State with each boat used on average about 17.9 times per year.



Protecting the Tasmanian way of life

We will also commit \$450,000 to purchase and manage the installation of four new Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) to provide a new range of fishing options for recreational fishers, including anglers and charter operators.

FADs are man-made objects used to attract a wide variety of fish including pelagic fish favoured by sports fishers. They usually consist of large buoys or floats tethered to the ocean floor with concrete blocks.

To ensure appropriate use of FADs, we will work with TARFish to develop a code of conduct for all recreational fishers.

Growing our world-class inland fisheries

Cheaper to go trout fishing

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will freeze the existing inland trout fishing licences at 2017-18 prices for the next four years (\$75.50 adults) providing \$300,000 over four years to fully offset the revenue the Inland Fisheries Service would have otherwise received.

Supporting inland fishers

Tasmania's trout fishery is world-class and will be the focus of international attention in 2019 when the World Fly Fishing Championship is hosted in the state.

We have already committed \$100,000 to support the event and capitalise on the exposure it will give to Tasmania, as well as encouraging more people to go trout fishing.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will maintain a strong and independent Inland Fisheries Service and drive continued growth in trout fishing. We will provide:

- \$215,000 over four years to Anglers Alliance Tasmania, the peak group representing 26,000 trout anglers, to support its work to improve the trout fishery and support anglers.

Our record in Government

The Hodgman Liberal Government has categorically ruled out licences for saltwater rod and line recreational fishing in Tasmania.

We have banned super-trawlers from operating in Tasmania waters with amendments to the *Living Marine Resources Management Act*, which means it would take an Act of Parliament to reverse the ban.

We have provided a peak body grant to TARFish, and worked with TARFish to develop a sustainable business model to enable it to successfully contribute to and support the recreational fishing sector in Tasmania.

In 2015 we implemented a new management plan for the Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery to improve fishing practices and the sustainability of stock, after a comprehensive review and consultation phase. This Scalefish management plan will ensure both recreational and commercial fisheries can continue for generations to come.



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- \$30,000 to work with Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania and Anglers Alliance Tasmania to market and promote angling tourism and the Trout Expo, capitalising on the international profile the world fly fishing championships will bring to Tasmania's trout fisheries.
- \$200,000 to expand the Inland Fisheries Service's (IFS) Anglers Access Program across priority lakes and rivers in the North West, North East, and Derwent Catchments in partnership with Anglers Alliance Tasmania and local angling clubs.
- \$300,000 over two years for the IFS in collaboration with Anglers Alliance Tasmania and local authorities to build and upgrade existing and new community amenities (such as toilets and refuse sites adjacent to existing boat ramps) to support high-visitation fishing locations. Proposed sites may include Woods Lake, Little Pine Lagoon and Lake St Clair – Cynthia Bay.

Drive growth in the recreational fishing industry through tourism

The recreational fishing industry supports many Tasmanian jobs through tackle shops, boat dealerships, boat builders and servicing companies, trailer manufacturers, dive shops, charter boats and fishing guides.

This substantial industry deserves our support to continue its growth.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will drive growth in this industry by attracting recreational fishing visitors in both our world-class trout fishery and saltwater fishing sectors. We will:

- Work with Tourism Tasmania to include inland and saltwater recreational fishing as another great reason to visit Tasmania, particularly the growing off-shore sports fishery and the trout fishery for both interstate and international markets;
- Engage with the TT Line to have the Spirits of Tasmania participate in periods where "free boat and trailer carriage" will apply, in order to provide visitor uplift at appropriate times of the year.

Our record in Government cont.

In Inland Fisheries we have:

- returned a full-time Inland Fisheries Officer to the North West, in addition to maintaining the IFS position at Liawenee;
- increased participation to improve water reliability and fish stocking at Lake Dulverton, Oatlands and expanded the anglers access program in the Derwent and South Esk Catchments;
- Invested \$161,700 from the Community Infrastructure Fund to deliver better infrastructure including unisex universal access toilets at Arthurs Lake, Penstock Lagoon and Bronte Lagoon, covered seating and barbecue facilities at Arthurs Lake and a universally accessible angling platform at Four Springs Lake;
- supported national Gone Fishing Day and many other local events and angling group days to encourage greater participation in recreational fishing.



Protecting the Tasmanian way of life

One stop shop for recreational fishing and boating

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will develop a one-stop-shop to promote and support recreational fishing and boating across Tasmania.

A new web portal and social media platform will provide recreational fishers with access to all boat registrations, boat operator licences, specialist fishing licences including nets, rock lobster, abalone and scallop licences.

The information will include links to MAST, weather information, recreational fishing clubs and organisations and provide up to date advice on local catches, best fishing spots and shark sightings.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will commit \$175,000 to develop and maintain the online portal.

Stronger safety arrangements for all recreational boat owners

1. Volunteer Marine Rescue

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will increase our investment in Tasmania's Volunteer Marine Rescue units, all of which provide a remarkable volunteer response coverage for boaters who get into trouble on the water.

- a) We will provide funding for Surf Life Saving Tasmania as the peak body for Volunteer Marine Rescue units of \$100,000 per year for the first two years, then \$120,000 per year for the following two years.
- b) We will also provide an initial \$350,000 into a vessel replacement fund over four years for all Volunteer Marine Rescue Units to access.
- c) We will provide \$130,000 to the very active St Helens Volunteer Marine Rescue Unit for base extensions to accommodate the St Helens Game Fishing Club. This co-location provides for a wider and younger demographic to be involved in local volunteer marine rescue.



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2. Marine and Safety Tasmania

- a) We will provide MAST with \$500,000 towards a 30 to 50 metre extension to the rock breakwater at Coles Bay to provide protection to boat owners in southerly weather.
- b) We will provide MAST with \$100,000 to finalise arrangements for a breakwater to be installed at the Binalong Bay gulch to provide safer launch and retrieval conditions for all boats.
- c) We will work with MAST to provide floating pontoons and boating facilities following the removal of the derelict Scamander Bridge and provide \$250,000 to MAST and the Break O'Day Council to fund on-shore and in-water improvements.
- d) We will provide \$200,000 for an extension to the Nubeena Jetty to deal with more access needs for recreational and commercial vessels due to the Port Arthur Jetty often being required for cruise boat visitors.

Labor Green Record

In contrast to our record, Labor and the Greens do not recognise the vital importance of the recreational fishing and boating sector.

In fact, Labor admitted it spent \$18,000 investigating how to charge people to fish when in government.

After 16 years in Government and four years in Opposition, Labor still fails to recognise the recreational fishing sector and has only committed to "conduct a review" into the effectiveness of TARFish.