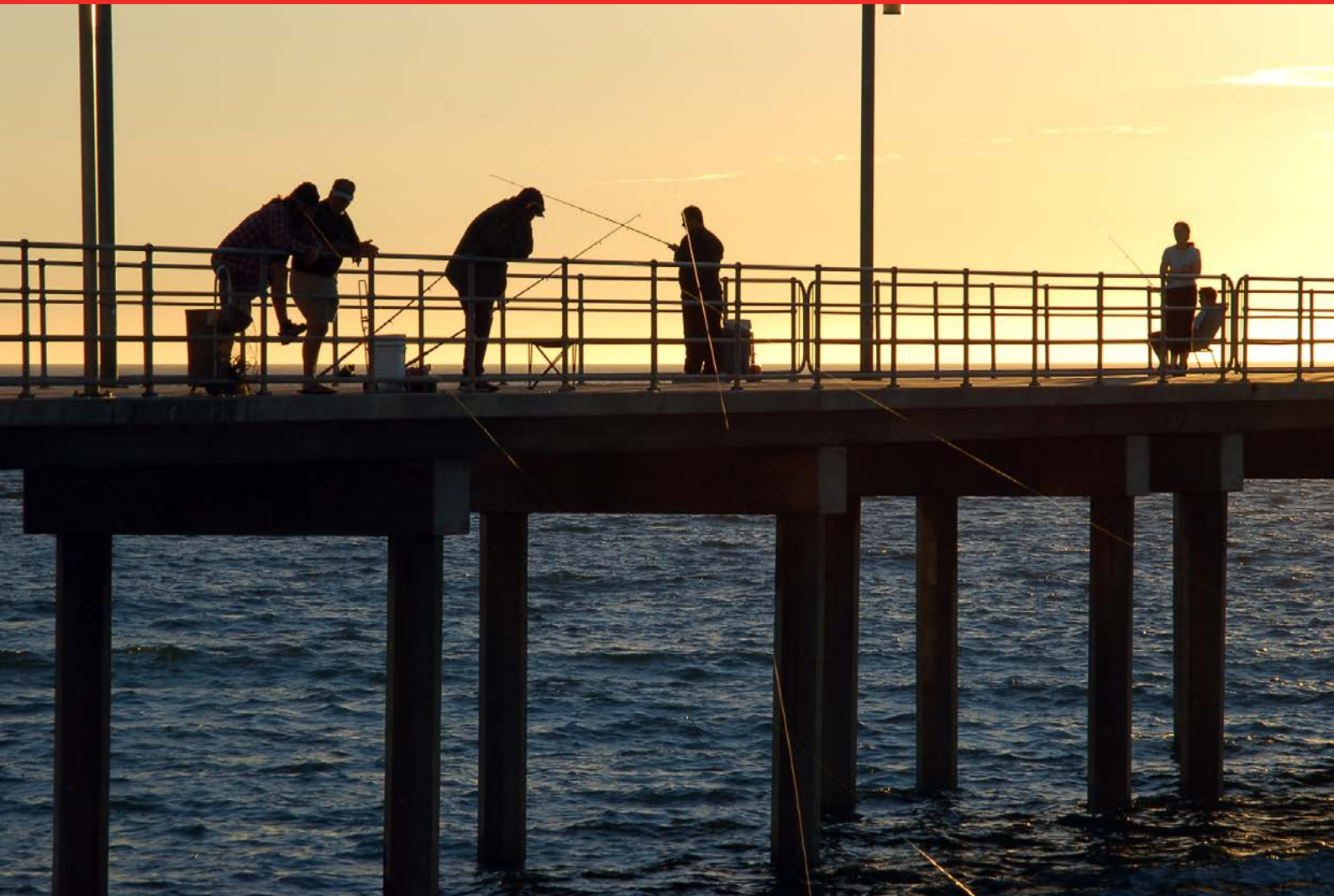


For  
the  
Future

Recreational  
Fishing



South  
Australian  
**Labor**



#### Acknowledgment of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.



# Foreword

Every year, around 277,000 South Australians participate in and enjoy recreational fishing in South Australia's beautiful environment. Recreational fishing brings together friends and families as part of clubs and groups and contributes to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Recreational fishing also contributes to the State's economy, supporting a range of businesses from tourism, to boating to retail and is estimated to be worth some \$160 million annually.

When South Australians pick up a line or a reel and fish off a jetty, wharf, beach, riverbank or boat they will often do so as part of a broader regional visit, visit the local tackle shop, stay in a local hotel or caravan park and eat in local pubs and restaurants.

Labor recognises the contribution recreational fishing makes to the lives of hundreds of thousands of South Australians and will support its growth through a range of measures including:

- ✓ Ensuring a strong, independent voice for recreational fishers through the peak body
- ✓ Recognising recreational fishing as part of the sport and recreation sector
- ✓ Identifying key infrastructure projects like boat ramps, jetties and wharves.
- ✓ Ensuring greater transparency in fisheries management by better communicating about the science behind decision making with recreational fishers and the broader community.
- ✓ Recognising the recreational fishing sector as a key stakeholder in the SA tourism industry and developing an integrated recreational fishing tourism plan

- ✓ Supporting recreational fishing programs for women, children and diverse multicultural communities
- ✓ Committing to work through issues with the peak body that they identify as needing to be resolved to enable recreational fishing to be sustainable and enjoyed into the future
- ✓ Ensuring all of these commitments are part of a plan developed and delivered with and for the sector

Disappointingly, the Marshall Liberal Government has wound up the needs of recreational fishing in bureaucratic red tape.

A Government I lead will cut the red tape and let those who so enjoy fishing to simply go fishing.



Peter Malinauskas MP  
SA Labor Leader





**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

## Ensure an independent voice for recreational fishing

**COST: \$200,000 per annum**

The Marshall Liberal Government established a Ministerial Recreational Fishing Advisory Council which purported to represent South Australian recreational fishers and give them a voice directly to the Minister for Primary Industries. Many recreational fishers have raised questions about the Council's efficacy. A number of those appointed to the Council resigned during the course of their terms.

The Marshall Liberal Government has also been criticised for its deliberations over licences.

It is clear the relationship between government and the recreational fishing community has broken down and must be improved. Leadership is needed from government to facilitate the sector more cohesively working together and being heard.

A Labor Government I lead will empower Recfish SA as a strong, independent representative voice on recreational fishing – a voice that Labor will hear and act upon.

**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

## Recognise recreational fishing as an activity in the sport and recreation sector

Recreational fishing is a pursuit that requires patience and dedication and to do it well, it also requires skill and knowledge. As such, as a past time, recreational fishing should be recognised as an activity in the recreation and sport sector.

Labor will ensure that fishing groups and clubs are considered in this way so the sector can apply for grants, where possible, through local, state and federal governments.



**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

## **Invest in infrastructure that can be used by recreational fishers**

Recreational fishers need access to a range of different infrastructure from wharves and jetties to drop a line from, boat ramps to safely launch from or artificial reefs to encourage additional habitats for fish to breed and grow.

Labor will work with RecFish SA to identify a priority list of infrastructure projects.

A first commitment will be to ensure the upgrade to the boat ramp at O'Sullivan Beach. Fishers, sailors and coastal safety organisations have been calling for the ageing O'Sullivan Beach boat ramp to be upgraded to cope with an increase in demand. The push stems from overcrowding at the main ramp, which was built in 1983.

The population growth in the area since the ramp was built has been huge, but the facility has not kept pace with that growth and safety concerns about it are growing.

The Marshall Liberal Government said that it would fix the O'Sullivan Beach Boat Ramp. The reality is that its funding promise falls very far short of what is needed.

Labor will invest an additional \$1m at O'Sullivan Beach Boat Ramp to ensure it is safe and accessible.

**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

## **Better communicate the science behind decisions impacting on recreational fishers**

Recreational fishers are also often the largest group affected by changes in aquatic natural resource management policy, and as a group are becoming increasingly influential at the political level where decisions are often made outside the resource management process. Consequently, there is increasing interest from both the recreational fishing community and resource managers in improving recreational fishers' engagement in the management process.

Recreational fishers are also often the largest group affected by changes in aquatic natural resource management policy, and as a group are becoming increasingly influential at the political level where decisions are often made outside the resource management process. Consequently, there is increasing interest from both the recreational fishing community and resource managers in improving recreational fishers' engagement in the management process.

Recreational fishers are often the largest group impacted by changes in marine and estuarine natural resource management policies and they have an increased interest in engaging in the management of fish stocks. Many recreational fishers have an intimate knowledge of the areas they fish and understand when stocks are being impacted at least as quickly as the scientists employed by Government to advise on such things.

As in all engagement with important stakeholders, providing access to the science behind decisions on fish management will help recreational fishers to understand and advocate for change. Labor recognises that it is in recreational fishers' interests to have fish stocks effectively managed for the future.

Labor will ensure regular channels of communication are maintained and the science behind decisions are shared with recreational fishers.



**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

## Recognise the recreational fishing sector as a key stakeholder in the SA tourism industry

People fish locally and in our regions, sometimes travelling vast distances in pursuit of a particular species. Many of our regional seaside and river towns survive off the back of visitors who list fishing as one of the reasons they travel to that community. They fish from local wharves and jetties, launch their boats at the local boat ramp or even charter fishing days out with local businesses. They stay in local caravan parks and pubs, eat in local restaurants and cafes and buy bait and supplies from local stores. The contribution of recreational fishers is valuable to a local economy.

South Australia needs a tourism strategy that reflects the role recreational fishing plays in driving visitation to the state and to regions. The strategy should focus on combining the best of South Australian tourism alongside outstanding fishing experiences.

Labor will task the South Australian Tourism Commission with developing the strategy in consultation with peak fishing bodies and regions and make recommendations to fully realise the potential of recreational fishing for tourism. It will encourage more people to fish more often and entice inbound and intrastate visitor markets to fish these destinations, stay longer and contribute to regional economies.

The strategy will be published by the beginning of 2024.

**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

## Support recreational fishing programs for women, children and diverse multicultural communities

Labor will also develop, in partnership with the sector, programs to encourage more people to take up the activity and to be informed about the environment in which they fish.

A program for children would provide them with an opportunity to learn to fish while being taught about the environment in which they do so. Similarly, programs to encourage diversity among those enjoying recreational fishing would be targeted at women and diverse multicultural communities.

### Healthy Fish Stocks

Labor understands that healthy fish stocks are crucial to the future of our environment and to enabling recreational fishers to enjoy their favourite pastime long into the future. Labor will work with the recreational fishing sector, including through the peak body with independent voice, to develop a fair plan for the future on access and allocation and on programs that enable communities to be involved in education programs and in data collection.





