



REEL NEWS

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Expressions of Interest Sort for Recreational Fishing Account Advisory Body

Following the introduction of the Recreational Fishing from a Boat Licence in March last year, the contribution made by recreational fishers to the Recreational Fishing Account (RFA) increased significantly. To date, over 110,000 boat fishing licences have been sold. This leaves recreational fishing in a prosperous position, as these licence monies will be put towards funding management, research and project initiatives to benefit recreational fishers across the state.

The Department of Fisheries and Recfishwest have been working together to develop a model for determining how these funds will be spent. As a result, an independent Recreational Fishing Account Advisory Body (RFAAB) will be set up to oversee the expenditure of licence monies and assess funding priorities.

Recfishwest is currently calling for expressions of interest from the recreational fishing sector for positions on the RFAAB. The primary role of the RFAAB will be to provide advice to the Department of Fisheries and Recfishwest on priorities for expenditure and recommended projects.

It is expected that RFAAB will initially meet quite frequently in order to establish business rules for the expenditure of licence revenue. Over time the frequency of meetings will be reduced and the RFAAB will likely meet twice a year - firstly to assess the business plan and budget of the RFA and secondly to approve projects for the upcoming financial year.

This Advisory Body will have the following membership:

- Independent Chairman;
- Chairman Recfishwest or nominee;
- 2 x Community representatives with expertise in recreational fisheries matters;
- Executive Director Recfishwest (observer);
- Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries (observer).



Expressions of interest are currently being sort for the positions of Chairman and two Community Representatives. Appointment to the RFAAB will be for a term of two years.

Recreational fishing stands to benefit greatly from the sound management of the state's recreational fisheries finances through consultative mechanisms that ensure effective engagement of recreational fishers and their peak body.

Expression-of-Interests forms are available by contacting Kane Moyle on 9246 3366 or by emailing kane@recfishwest.org.au.

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