



GUIDELINES

FISHING JETTIES, WHARVES AND PLATFORMS

Recfishwest is concerned at ongoing loss of recreational fishing access to jetties, wharves, groynes and platforms adjacent to State waters. These guidelines detail Recfishwest's position in relation to various restrictions that can negatively impact on recreational fishing

Recfishwest supports ongoing recreational fishing access to all jetties, wharves, groynes and platforms throughout Western Australia. All demolition, closure or restricted access proposals should be subject to effective consultation with the community, and all possible options to retain recreational fishing access should be considered.

Jetties, wharves, groynes and platforms are state assets which are highly valued by the recreational fishing community.

Recfishwest believes restrictions to recreational access should only be enough to ensure public safety, or efficiency of use by the other users, and that such jetties or parts should remain available to recreational anglers at all other times.

Recfishwest believes every possible opportunity should be taken to add jetties or fishing platforms to all bridges and to new waterfront developments which restrict access to areas of water or to the previous shoreline.

Recfishwest encourages owners of existing private jetties to allow access to their jetties by recreational anglers.

Importance of Jetties

Recreational fishing from various fishing platforms is both a sport and a recreational activity which is extremely important for children, families, the elderly and the disabled. Without access to jetties, many of these people would be unable to participate in recreational angling.

Jetties are also an amenity enjoyed by the wider community, particularly tourists and sightseers, as demonstrated by their extensive use, where permitted.

Relatively few jetties are left, and those that remain are extremely important to recreational anglers. Western Australia's population and the numbers of recreational anglers are increasing, yet the number of jetties available to recreational anglers has been decreasing over the years. This trend needs to be addressed.

Funding for Jetties.

The importance of jetties to recreational anglers should be recognised and adequate funding be provided as it is for many other community sport and recreation facilities. Funding and sponsorship from corporate, business and private sources should be encouraged and acknowledged.

Future funding sources could include contributions from recreational fishing licences revenues.

Demolition of Jetties.

Unfortunately, Western Australia has a history of failing to make provision for funding of the maintenance and repairs of jetties and neglecting the maintenance until the repairs become very expensive. With insufficient funds for maintenance allocated, complete demolition of the jetty is all too often presented as the most viable financial solution.

Recfishwest does not accept that the remaining jetties and platforms should be allowed to be closed or demolished due to the failure to carry out maintenance and repairs.

Access to Jetties.

Recfishwest believes that the right of access to fish exists to all river and ocean shores and should be maintained and available to everyone.

The ongoing issues of public liability and security have resulted in access to some jetties being restricted or even closed. Recfishwest does not accept that access to jetties should be restricted using the fear or claim of public liability issues inherent in the acts of being on or fishing from jetties.

State and Federal governments should resolve any general public liability issues to ensure that jetties remain open to recreational anglers. Recfishwest does accept that jetties used for other purposes may not be able to be open for recreational fishing in all parts or at all times. However, Recfishwest does not accept the full time closure of publically owned jetties, or parts of jetties, simply because these might be needed by another user group on occasions.

Ongoing access for recreational anglers should be maintained by any developer and/or government authorities.

Recfishwest will assist developers with the general requirements for any recreational fishing facilities to be incorporated into coastal developments in order to ensure that these give the best possible outcome for recreational anglers.

Jetty fishing provides a valuable outdoor venue where people of advancing years and those with reduced incomes can gather for a cheap and healthy past-time, as well as partaking in valuable social intercourse with fellow anglers.