

# Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council

## Communique

Wednesday, 17 April 2019

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The Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (Council) held its first meeting today in Port Pirie.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tim Whetstone MP opened the meeting. The Minister outlined the purpose of the Council was to provide feedback and advice to government on recreational fishing development issues, initiatives and big picture policies that impact the recreational fishing sector. Matters discussed at the meeting are set out below.

### Administrative decisions

- The approval of the Terms of Reference of the Council and Meeting Procedures. Key points include:
  - Formal notices of meeting and minutes will be sent to members.
  - A quorum will be 50% of the membership.
  - Members of the Council will declare their interests via a register of interest considered at the commencement of a meeting.
  - Council members will not discuss confidential business of the Council without the explicit approval of the Minister.
  - Members are not permitted to send proxies to meetings.
  - The Council can meet without the Minister present.
  - PIRSA will provide secretariat services to the Council.
  - No sitting fees are payable to members for participation in Council meetings.

### Representation decisions

- Following 1 July 2019, the Council determined that where a recreational fishing representative is required for an advisory committee established under section 20 of the Fisheries Management Act 2007, the Council will provide the Minister with direct recommendations of individuals who would be suitable.
- The Council considered the future of the Regional Recreational Fishing Committees and determined that a key role of the Council will be to engage with these Committees. The Council will provide a direct link between these Committees and Government.
- The Council determined that Chapter 6 of the Management Plan for Recreational Fishing in South Australia will be updated to remove reference to Recfish SA and include a reference to the Council and the purpose of its establishment to improve dialogue and communication with Government.
- The Council appointed Graham Keegan as the inaugural Council Chair, by consensus of the Council.

### Council notes for future discussion

- The Minister has requested the Council to create a Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia.

- The need to improve estimates of participation rates and catch of the recreational fishing sector.
- There are opportunities for the recreational fishing sector to increase its in-kind and financial contribution to fisheries research.
- A review of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* will be undertaken this year and the Council will participate in the review.

The Council is expected to meet three times a year with the Minister and has the ability to meet by itself outside these meetings.

The members of the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council are Graham Keegan (South Australian Fishing Alliance), Ian Fitzgerald (RecFish SA), John Thomas (FishinSA), Tracey Tito (FishinSA), Peter Teakle (Inland), Brian Wheadon (Tackle), Amanda Whitehorn, Shane Mensforth and Dave Scholefield.