



Tim **Mulherin**

Labor for Queensland

telephone: 3844 8101 address: 16 Peel St South Brisbane Qld 4101

web: abetterwayforqld.com.au twitter: @timmulherinmp

Ref: C/15/7581

Mr Paul Aubin
Cairns Recreational Fishing Industry Stakeholders

By E-mail: paul@cairnsbednboat.com.au

Dear Paul
Dear Mr Aubin,

Thank you for writing to Labor candidates for the 2015 state election, about matters of concern to Cairns Recreational Fishing Industry Stakeholders. I have been asked to reply to your letter on their behalf. Your letter contains several questions on issues important to recreational fishers. I can provide answers to those questions below.

Queensland Recreational Fishers Network Questions

Queensland Labor's fishing policy "Sustainable Fishing" is attached to this letter for the benefit of your members. We believe that recreational fishers will benefit from the policy in two ways which are set out below.

Creation of fishing tourism attractions - Net Free Fishing Zones

A Queensland Labor Government will establish three commercial net-free fishing zones in North & Central Queensland.

- Trinity Bay, Cairns
- St Helens Beach – Cape Hillsborough, North of Mackay
- Yeppoon/Keppel Bay/Fitzroy River, Capricorn Coast

Fishing tourism has great potential for adding economic value to Queensland's fisheries resources. Queensland potentially has some of the best fishing experiences in Australia adjacent to significant urban centres on East Coast. This combination is powerful tourism attraction which deserves development.

A Labor Government will set aside \$10 million from the Great Barrier Reef policy to fund the necessary buyout of commercial fishing activity in the areas in accordance with the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

It is anticipated that this funding will meet the compensation needed to establish the three proposed net-free fishing zones. The decision on any further net free zones will be made after an open application process.

A better way for Queensland **Labor**

Queensland



Queensland Labor acknowledges the proposals for recreational only fishing areas in Moreton Bay. Moreton Bay is Queensland's largest commercial fishing destination and thus any proposals for change must be carefully considered.

A Queensland Labor Government will sit down with both recreational and commercial fishing organisations to investigate how a commercial net free fishing area can be best instituted in Moreton Bay to obtain the maximum economic gain from the fisheries resource in Moreton Bay.

Marine Infrastructure Fund

Labor will extend the Marine Infrastructure Fund by \$15 million a year for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years to improve marine infrastructure such as boat ramps all across Queensland and to prioritise projects which the LNP has ignored such as the Cannonvale VMR boat ramp upgrade.

Fisheries Management Review

A Queensland Labor Government will conclude the current Fisheries Management Review and will publically release the report.

We will consider the findings of the report and implement those recommendations that are suitable for Queensland. Labor is committed to establishing the net free zones noted above and the findings of the review will not deter this.

I trust that your members will find our policy proposals beneficial. We look forward to an opportunity to provide recreational fishers a more enjoyable fishing experience and to creating another tourism opportunity for Queensland.

Yours sincerely



Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition