



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

Media Release – April 1, 2010

Anglers' chance to have a say on recreational fishing industry

Anglers from the North-West and West should take their opportunity to help shape the future of the recreational fishing industry in Australia says Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom MP.

This week Fisheries Minister Tony Burke released a discussion paper developed by the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee, which was established by Mr Burke to provide expert industry advice to the Rudd Government.

Mr Sidebottom said recreational fishing was a vital part of both the economy and culture of the North-West and West, and it was vital that people from the region were part of this discussion.

"Recreational fishing has a long history in this region, and we can boast some of the best fishing waters in the country," Mr Sidebottom said.

"A lot of important expertise and experience exists and I want to see these people having their say on what the future of the industry will look like."

The advisory committee brings together expertise and industry skills from across the country from young leaders to highly experienced fisheries scientists and managers.

It met with recreational fishers across Australia to consult on the directions of the draft discussion paper, Recreational Fishing in Australia - 2010 and Beyond.

The committee said industry would like to see better promotion of the importance of recreational fishing and to ensure the industry has a plan to help manage our fish resources.

Mr Sidebottom said the Government was providing up to \$500,000 to help scope and implement a coordinated national data collection project for recreational fishing in Australia.

"We want to build on existing work by the states and territories and community-based recreational fishing organisations and encourage a nationally consistent approach."

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) will work with the advisory committee to coordinate the project and seek co-investment from state and territory governments around and industry organisations. Minister Burke has also written to the states and territories to begin consultation and asked for their input on the suggested national framework.

Recreational fishers are urged to contact their local recreational fishing associations and put forward their views on the draft discussion paper, by 30 April 2010.

The discussion paper is available at www.daff.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/rfids

For more information: Luke Sayer 6431 1333 or 0458 311 355