

A strong voice for our future

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor to increase annual support for recreational fishers

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will further increase its annual support for recreational fishing groups across the state.

Already in Keppel, Labor has promised to invest \$2 million to upgrade Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour with improved in-water facilities, expanded ramps and more floating pontoons.

The Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga said now the popular recreational fishing grants program that's grown from \$100,000 to \$200,000 this financial year, would be increased by Labor by another 25 per cent.

Ms Lauga said: "We will commit \$250,000 per year over four years to support activities and projects which enhance recreational fishing across Queensland in a sustainable way.

"With well over 900,000 recreational fishers in Queensland, it's no surprise the program attracts so much interest."

Ms Lauga said the new funding commitments would include better facilities for local boaties and tourists accessing the southern Great Barrier Reef and the Keppels.

Ms Lauga said the commitment to Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour was great news for local boaties and tourism industry businesses.

"Works like this are crucial to not only creating new local jobs during construction but delivering the facilities we need to make our region an even better place for locals and visitors," she said.

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She said recreational fishing is an important driver of jobs in Queensland communities.

“We’re particularly interested in applications that contribute to the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy target to increase the satisfaction of recreational fishers.”

The \$1 million for Recreational Fishing Grants will support learn-to-fish clinics, recreational club activities, restocking and research assistance.

Labor will also continue with the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 to ensure Queensland’s fisheries are managed with world’s best practice.

“Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor Government has reformed Queensland fisheries with modern legislation and new regulations that give certainty to recreational and commercial fishers.

“The LNP cannot be trusted. When in Government they cut 28 per cent of fisheries staff, and they have opposed every fisheries reform since 2015.

“Last year, they even moved a motion in Parliament that would have given black market fishers a five-day head start before their illegal catch could be inspected.

“It was the Palaszczuk Labor Government that re-opened the Gladstone Fisheries Office, launched 14 new patrol boats, and employed 20 new Queensland Boating and Fishing Patrol Officers.”

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