

BETTER FISHING GRANTS – 2023

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Overview

Under the \$2 million *Investing in Improved Facilities for Recreational Fishers and Local Communities* commitment, the Tasmanian Government will provide grants to make recreational sea fishing more accessible to Tasmanians.

Grants are now available for facilities and equipment that enhance recreational marine fishing opportunities in Tasmania. Incorporated not-for-profit organisations (including community groups and fishing clubs), schools and individuals are eligible to apply.

The *Better Fishing Grants Program* is a demonstration of the Government's commitment to the *Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy* which was released in September 2021.

Funding available

Grants of up to \$300,000 are available for facilities that improve recreational sea fishing opportunities in Tasmania.

Submissions for both large projects (up to \$300,000) and small projects (up to \$30,000) are available.

These may include installing or upgrading:

- pontoons, jetties or other structures for recreational fishing;
- fish cleaning tables, bins, tables, shelters and lighting;
- toilets near fishing facilities;
- paths, steps, walkways or other access routes to fishing locations; and
- other facilities directly associated with recreational shore-based fishing.

Eligibility

Small grants: - Incorporated not-for-profit organisations (including community groups and fishing clubs) municipal councils and other land managers are eligible to apply.

Large grants: - applications are open to public land managers where facilities are proposed to be located. Incorporated not-for-profit organisations (including community groups that can show capacity to manage a project of this size).

How are projects assessed?

The goal of this funding round is to enhance recreational marine fishing access or quality of experience, focusing on shore-based fishing. As well as providing physical access, proposals should increase fisher satisfaction and well-being.

Proposals will also be assessed against four criteria:

1. *Demonstrated need for the project.* Applicants need to show how the proposal will enhance recreational marine fishing access or quality of experience in a way that is not currently occurring. Applications for facilities will involve demonstrating how the proposal addresses a lack of facilities in the proposed area.
2. *Organisational capacity to deliver the project.* Applicants must demonstrate capacity to undertake activities safely (including adhering to relevant design and safety standards) and complete all works within six months from project commencement. If approvals are required, applicants must have the capacity to do this. If works are proposed on land not owned or managed by the applicant, a letter of support from the landowner/manager must accompany the application. The letter must provide details about permitting and maintaining proposed works.
3. *Benefit to recreational fishers.* Proposals that demonstrate benefits to a wider range of users are encouraged. Proposed projects will be viewed favourably if they can deliver positive outcomes for families, senior citizens and people who are mobility restricted.
4. *Value for money.* We will assess the cost of the project against its anticipated benefits. For larger cost components, we encourage applicants to provide more than one quote. Projects may be given higher priority if there are co-contributions including funding or labour inputs. This is particularly important for projects where potential benefits are shared with user groups other than recreational fishers.

Projects will not be considered if they:

- do not provide clear benefits for recreational fishers
- reduce or restrict access or public amenity to fishers or non-fishers as a result of proposed works
- include project administration or management fees (these are considered an 'in-kind' contribution)
- consist of general maintenance or operational costs of existing facilities
- are to complete projects that have already commenced construction

Assessment Panel

Applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined above by a selection panel. The panel consists of representatives from the Department of Natural Resource and Environment Tasmania, Marine and Safety Tasmania and the Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing.

What happens when an application is successful?

Successful applicants will be required to sign a project funding agreement. The agreement will include obligations of all parties, project details, project reporting requirements, granting period, payment terms and liability, insurance and indemnity provisions.

What happens when an application is unsuccessful?

The applicant is encouraged to contact the Recreational Fisheries Section of NRE to discuss why the application was unsuccessful. The applicant may receive guidance on how the proposal could be modified to increase the chance of success in later funding rounds.