



AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

(WA Division) Inc

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Mr Ian Birch
Town of Cambridge
PO Box 15
Floreat WA 6014

Dear Mr Birch

Intention to make determinations; Town of Cambridge local government and public property local law - proposed closure of City Beach and Floreat Groynes.

The Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) believes the proposal to completely close to fishing the area 50 metres north and south of the southern City Beach groyne, including the groyne itself, does not recognise that recreational fishing has a valid reason to use part of this area for part of the time.

The Association objects to this proposal and requests modifications which properly recognise that recreational fishing is a responsible, valid and socially valuable activity which must be given adequate recognition in the allocated usage of coastal resources such as beach areas and groynes.

The Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) is an Association of shore based and boat recreational fishing clubs from the mid-west, west and south coasts of WA, including several clubs in the Metropolitan area.

The Association promotes family fishing, club and individual fishing as a sport and recreation which has something for everyone, and particularly as one activity from a range of activities which can be carried out by family members while at the coast.

The Association and many individual club members have membership of Recfishwest, and strongly support Recfishwest in their promotion and support of responsible recreational fishing.

Members of clubs affiliated with the Association have been fishing in the west and south coasts of WA for over 60 years. The Association promotes a Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct and common courtesy which recognises and respects the rights of other people encountered while fishing.

With the increasing population in Perth, shore based fishing in the metropolitan area is increasingly restricted by other users such as beachgoers, swimmers and surfers.

Club members and many fishers from the public have had to adjust their fishing times, and many now generally fish at night or at times and in conditions when other users are not in or on the water.

People and family members with physical limitations due to age, injuries and other conditions, young people and new or inexperienced fishers cannot cope with the wind or the surf on many beaches.

Many cannot walk far on beaches and cannot stand and fish from natural rocky areas. They cannot fish at night and they need readily accessible and suitable places which extend into and above the water from which to fish.

Over the years, the number of such places has reduced significantly due to closures or removal. Only a few such places have been newly added as part of developments along the coast and rivers.

There is now only a very limited number of such places left where recreational fishers can fish in the metropolitan area, and each such remaining place is very valuable to recreational fishers, particularly for daytime fishing.

In particular the stretch of coast from Fremantle to Hillarys, a distance of about 30 kilometres, has very few such suitable places. Nothing new has been provided for decades despite the increasing population and many other new recreational facilities and very large sums spent in support of other active and passive recreation.

The Association believes in fairly sharing the coast and publicly funded facilities with other users. However we also believe that this sharing approach must be based on each group's needs and the availability of suitable places, and a sharing approach should also be followed by the other users who may have many suitable areas in which to carry out their particular activities.

The Association does not object to the principle of allocating priority uses for certain areas, however when this approach is taken we would expect that some areas would also be allocated for the priority use of recreational fishing.

With some limitations, the Association believes that all areas of the coast and all publicly funded facilities should be open to acceptable activities at all times when these areas are not actually in use by other users.

Closures which prevent one group from using an area even when no one else is using or would use that area do not make any sense.

The Association supports the comments made by Recfishwest about and against this proposal.

In particular the Association supports Recfishwest's proposal for signage and allocation to fishing of 45 degrees each side of the end of the groynes.

Please contact the Association for any clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Edwards", with a horizontal line underneath it.

President

20 October 2012

CC

Executive Director
Recfishwest
PO Box 34
North Beach WA 6920