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MEDIA RELEASE

TARFish welcomes \$20m Liberal commitment to recreational fishing infrastructure – calls on Labor to match and more!

Key points:

- TARFish welcomes Prime Minister's commitment to \$20m investment in recreational fishing infrastructure and challenges Labor to match
- TARFish calls on both major parties to support \$350,000 weather station proposal saying safety above politics
- Important that both major parties outline their full policies to support recreational fishers in coming days and weeks

The Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing (TARFish) today welcomes the announcement by Prime Minister, Scott Morrison that a Liberal Government will invest \$20m into recreational fishing boating and campaign infrastructure.

"Investment that makes it easier and more enjoyable for people to go fishing is very welcome. We would particularly like to see investment in shore-based facilities that improves access for all abilities and ages," said TARFish CEO, Jane Gallichan.

"The challenge now is for the Labor Party to match that investment commitment and ensure Tasmania's recreational fishers don't miss out.

"With over 100,000 Tasmanians going fishing each year, the highest per capita recreational boat ownership in the nation, and more coastline than Victoria and New South Wales combined, it's important that both major parties outline their full policies to support recreational fishers in the coming days and weeks," she said.

TARFish has met with both major parties in recent weeks to discuss the needs of Tasmania's recreational fishers and has proposed a network of weather stations as an urgent safety measure.

"Safety is above politics and unfortunately, in the last year or so we have seen a number of tragic boating accidents involving recreational sea fishers.

"We want Tasmania's recreational sea fishers to have the right weather information in the places where they fish – out on the water. By providing relevant weather information we can assist recreational fishers, and other waterway users, to make better boating decisions.

"\$350,000 is not a lot of money to help keep Tasmania's recreational fishers safe and we ask both major parties to show their support for this important safety initiative and commit to this investment," she said.

TARFish is proposing to purchase and install 8 weather buoys around Tasmania at a cost of \$350,000 to provide; wind speed and direction, swell height and direction, and surface

temperatures. Proposed sites for the buoys reflect high rates of recreational fishing in the immediate vicinity.

TARFish believes there is strong demand for access to this type of highly localised weather information based on feedback from recreational fishers over an extended period.

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Background:

- In FY2020-21 there were three recorded recreational boating fatalities.
- Since 2001 there have been 57 boating fatalities and 57% of those involved fishing.
- The \$350,000 weather station program would run for four years before needing further funding.
- Proposed buoy locations (see map);
 1. Southern Channel
 2. Storm Bay
 3. Pirates Bay
 4. Marion Bay
 5. Off St Helens
 6. Off Bridport (West Sandy Point)
 7. Port Sorrell
 8. Off Tablecape (Wynyard)
- The Tasmanian Government is currently undertaking a state-wide audit of recreational shore-based fishing infrastructure – an action from their Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy (released in November 2021)

