

Dear Mr 

Thank you for your letter of 1 February 2023 on behalf of yourself and a number of other residents of the Marino area, outlining opposition to the lifting of a spearfishing ban from Kingston Park to Hallett Cove. I note that you have requested the spearfishing ban be reinstated until further consultation is undertaken, a review of the marine life of the region is carried out, and methods for ensuring compliance with the regulations are established.

The South Australian Government, as custodian of the State's community-owned fisheries resources, has a fundamental role in managing these resources to ensure they are biologically sustainable. An object of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* ("the Act") is to protect, manage, use and develop the aquatic resources of the State consistent with ecologically sustainable development, including that recreational fishing and commercial fishing activities are to be fostered for the benefit of the whole community.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) conducted a review of the management arrangements for spearfishing activities in Adelaide metropolitan areas in 2021. The review process involved the development of the *Spearfishing Closures Review Paper March 2021* which included a summary of the relevant legislation, the known research and evidence related to spearfishing activities.

Consistent with principles outlined in the Act, and the consultation process outlined in the *Management Plan for Recreational Fishing in South Australia 2020*, over 50 relevant stakeholder groups were consulted through the review. The groups included several City Councils, recreational fishing groups, conservation groups, surf lifesaving clubs and sea rescue stakeholders.

In reviewing the feedback received throughout the consultation, it is my understanding the former Government were provided with all submissions received, including those received from stakeholders that were not included in the targeted consultation.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

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While I understand your concerns in relation to the potential impacts of increased levels of spearfishing activities in the Marino area, I am advised a range of information was considered in the decision to lift the spearfishing ban in this area. This included:

- Existing recreational fishing activities and management arrangements in place (e.g. size and bag limits) and impacts on fish stocks,
- The equitable right to access a suitable section of the Adelaide metropolitan coastline by a marine user stakeholder group,
- The ability to provide safe access to inshore areas for spear fishers as a part of our recreational fishing community,
- Lesser use of the specific area by other marine use groups, i.e. swimmers who prefer a beach environment.

In consideration of the available information, it is my view that the arrangements adequately meet the objects of the Act, and reintroduction of the spearfishing ban pending a comprehensive baseline review to be conducted is not required.

Previous regulations prohibiting the use of hand spears and spearfishing guns (explosive and non-explosive) within 600 metres of the high-water mark remain in place for the majority of the Adelaide metropolitan coastline and within 100 metres of all jetties, wharves and landings. Spearfishing activities also remain prohibited in the protected area of Second Valley, within 200 metres of the Hindmarsh and Inman River mouths, and in all aquatic reserves. You are able to access the specific details, including maps of relevant areas, on the PIRSA website at:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/recreational_fishing/rules/gear_bait_and_berley/permitted_fishing_gear/fish_spear_or_hand_spear.

PIRSA Fisheries Officers maintain regular site visits to areas of fishing activity. During the routine visits Fisheries Officers monitor adherence to fishing rules, including permitted spearfishing areas, and continue to ensure adherence to spearfishing restrictions in other areas of the Adelaide metropolitan coastline.

If you, or any other member of our community witness prohibited fishing activities you can report this to the 24 hours Fishwatch reporting line on 1800 065 522.

I hope that through this response you receive the clarification that you require on the current spearfishing management arrangements.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

27/3 / 2023

Cc. Louise Miller-Frost MP - Member for Boothby
Sarah Luscombe and Ian Crossland - City of Marion Councillors