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Dear Ms Yates

I am writing to you in relation to your email and letter received 10 March 2022 to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Hon David Basham MP, regarding the recent regulation change to permit spearfishing from Marino to Hallett Cove coastline. The government has now entered caretaker mode prior to the State election and as your email refers to fishing activities, I am responding directly to you.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) conducted a review of the Adelaide metropolitan spearfishing prohibited 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. As the recognised peak advisory body on recreational fishing to the State government, the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) played an instrumental role in providing advice in relation to the development of the paper and throughout the consultation.

Consistent with principles outlined in the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, 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. In addition to the two City Councils that you have referred to in your correspondence, the stakeholder groups were comprised of several recreational fishing groups, conservation groups, surf lifesaving clubs, sea rescue and adjacent City Councils.

As a result of the review, new regulations were passed on 17 February 2022 to permit the use of hand spear and non-explosive spearguns for two distinct areas on the Adelaide metropolitan coast. The opening of the two permitted spearfishing areas aims to provide more equitable and shore-based access to spearfishers to

fish in a safe environment along the Adelaide metropolitan coast. The selective harvest ability of spearfishing was also acknowledged in the review.

Previous regulations prohibiting the use of hand spears and spearfishing guns (explosive and non-explosive) remain for up to 600 metres from shore in continuing prohibited areas, within 200 metres of the Hindmarsh and Inman River mouths, within 100 metres of jetties, wharves and landings and in the protected area of Second Valley.

All of the information outlined above has been published on the PIRSA website: (https://pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/fishing_gear/permitted_devices/devices/fish_spear_or_hand_spear).

The SA Fishing App has also been updated to reflect the changes with additional work to update signs currently underway.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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