



# SUNFISH FRASER COAST

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## ANGLERS CLAIM [MORAL] VICTORY

Anglers on the Fraser Coast, especially in Hervey Bay, are responsible for much of the massive swing against the Labor government in the recent election.

The massive swings to both Paul Neville and Warren Truss in Hinkler and Wide Bay showed the depth of feeling in those electorates.

The swing away from Labor candidate Belinda McNeven was the third highest in the state, and was even larger in Hervey Bay, where McNeven should have polled much better.

According to Scott Mitchell, Chairman of Sunfish Fraser Coast, the candidate survey done by Sunfish and published in Hervey Bay and Maryborough and on line just before the election, showed that Labor was grossly out of touch with recreational fishing in the region, and did not care about the wishes of the 80,000 plus local anglers. Much to their detriment .

Recreational fishing has been on the receiving end of some very poor decisions in recent times all of which were made by Labor governments, both State and Federal. These included more restrictions on anglers, the Great Sandy Marine Park, the recent inshore finfish rules again placed excessive restrictions on anglers but allowed commercial netting to continue unabated and with no catch limits, and other marine parks including the Fraser Area for Further Assessment.

"Labor and the Greens have continually relied on overseas lobbyists making their decisions for them on Marine issues and were threatening to close vast new areas to fishing. Anglers in this region have been shafted one too many times recently." Mr Mitchell said.

A number of candidates who stood for election in the Fraser Coast region, including the winners Paul Neville and Warren Truss, indicated strong support for recreational fishing and that they would support proper consultation with all stakeholders not just professional lobbyists, as well as basing their decisions on good science. The Labor candidates refused to even answer the questionnaire but relied on the party position of vastly increased no-fishing zones. They lost votes accordingly.

"No candidate can survive an election when 70% of all households in the electorate have at least one person, a recreational angler, who could passionately oppose what they are doing. Sunfish and the anglers of the Fraser Coast now put those elected on notice to honour their commitments and work to improve the situation for anglers in the region.

This election result should send a strong message to all elected and aspiring politicians:

**I FISH AND I VOTE!"** Mr Mitchell concluded.

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