

The proposed bill has not taken into consideration its potential impacts on recreational fishing. In effect, this bill would ban recreational fishing.

Recreational fishers have shown increasing awareness of the need to practice sustainability of fish resources over the last 15 years and most fishers now practice catch and release. Whilst there has been debate over whether catching fish with a hook and line is cruel, there is no scientific evidence to suggest fish feel pain through their mouths and many fish eat very sharp objects including oysters and other fish. Recent evidence from the still incomplete released fish survival study in which I personally participate shows high survival rates for most target species. The biggest threat to fish stocks is loss of habitat and impacts on water quality combined with global warming.

Recreational fishing is sustainable in accordance with the criteria set out in the Commonwealth Government's EPBC Act. This bill should be rejected and seen for what it is - mindless stupidity.

Vern Veitch
4 Stagpole Street, Townsville, Q, 4810
Ph: 07 4771 6087 Mob: 0418 729496
Email: vernv@bigpond.net.au