

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT QUESTION

ASKED BY: Ms Anita Dow MP

ANSWERED BY: Minister for Primary Industries and Water

QUESTION:

Speaker, my question is from Gary from Penguin. Gary asked the Parliament will the new Minister for Primary Industry and Water, Gavin Pearce, review the Liberal Government's decision taken in 2024 to ban recreational netting in Macquarie Harbour for recreational fishers, allowing recreational fishers back into the harbour?

ANSWER:

Thank you for your constituent question in Parliament on 9 September 2025 regarding Macquarie Harbour being closed to recreational gillnetting.

Based on the documented impact of gillnetting on the Maugean skate population, the Government, in close collaboration with experts and stakeholders, prohibited the activity in the Harbour as of 1 November 2024.

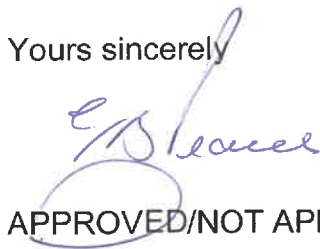
This is consistent with the Tasmanian Government's Conservation Action Plan for the Maugean skate, which was approved in January 2024.

The *Tasmanian Recreational Sea Fishing Strategy 2021-2030* also includes a commitment to a statewide phase-out of recreational gillnets by 2030.

I note, recreational gillnet licence holders are currently permitted to carry a recreational gillnet on the western side of Macquarie Harbour for the purposes of setting their nets outside of Macquarie Harbour (once outside the heads).

Thank you again for your query.

Yours sincerely



APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Date 13 Nov 25