

Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

Hon Leon Bignell

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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SA's new artificial reef to be located south of Ardrossan

The state's first artificial shellfish reef will be built south of Ardrossan on the Yorke Peninsula.

The reef – which was a 2014 Labor election commitment – will cost about \$600,000.

The State Government consulted widely with the community before deciding on the location with hundreds of people attending public forums and submitting their feedback online.

The native shellfish reef will attract marine life and help with recreational fishing opportunities in the region.

The reef will be constructed using limestone, oyster shells and live native oysters.

Background

Ardrossan is the biggest town in the area - it's just 90 minutes' drive from Adelaide and is easily accessible from the coast north to Port Wakefield, Yorke Peninsula.

The State Government is working to develop a reef site of approximately four hectares in north-western Gulf St Vincent – south of Ardrossan and within the vicinity of Rogues Point – The reef will be accessible from several boat ramps in the area.

The project is being led by PIRSA in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), RecFish SA, other government agencies and community stakeholders. www.pir.sa.gov.au/habitatenhancement

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell

Each year more than 277,000 men, women and children take part in recreational fishing across South Australia. It's an important part of the South Australian way of life and a vital economic driver.

The Yorke Peninsula attracts about one million visitors each year with about half of these visiting the region specifically to take part in recreational fishing.

The State Government is always looking for initiatives which support recreational fishing and this reef trial is excellent news for the local community.

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Quotes attributable to Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter

This artificial reef is a part of the Government's \$3.25 million commitment for new measures to enhance the experience of recreational fishing.

Ecologically sustainable artificial reefs create new places to fish for locals, and increase tourism to the benefit of local businesses, while providing new habitats for marine species.

Quotes attributable to RecFish SA Executive Director David Ciaravolo

A new reef that benefits recreational fishers is a great development and it is pleasing to see the location selected is one that is popular with fishers.

Quotes attributable to Yorke Peninsula Council CEO Andrew Cameron

I am delighted the new trial reef will be located in this council area. The reef will be a unique drawcard for locals and visitors to Yorke Peninsula, providing ongoing employment and also helping to restore shellfish numbers and improve fishing habitats in the area.