

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 22 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* provides that the Minister may approve codes of practice relating to animal welfare

We Fish for the Future - The National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sport Fishing was endorsed by a joint working party of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee together with representatives of fishing associations and proprietors of fishing-related industries within the ACT

The ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee endorsed the Code of Practice for adoption in December 1996

The provisions of the Code are detailed in the Attachment

The purpose of the Code is to specify the requirements for responsible fishing whilst engaging in recreational and sport fishing within the Australian Capital Territory

The Code addresses four main areas of fishing responsibility. These include looking after fisheries, protecting the environment, treating fish humanely and respecting the rights of others

Section 1 describes the use of common sense and restraint when engaging in the activity of fishing

Section 2 outlines the need to observe all fishing regulations and report illegal fishing activities

Section 3 encompasses the need to restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitats

Section 4 details the requirement to be responsible for the removal of rubbish from fishing retreats

Section 5 outlines the requirement to use established roads and tracks when traveling to a fishing spot.

Section 6 discusses the need to take care of sensitive areas when boating and anchoring

Section 7 details the requirement to report environmental damage and pollution to the relevant authorities

Section 8 describes the ways to quickly and correctly return unwanted or illegal catch to the water

Section 9 outlines the need to always use legal tackle and to attend to fish immediately they have become caught. It also outlines the humane methods that are to be used for dispatching fish that are to be kept for consumption or trophies

Section 10 summarises the principles of courtesy to all water users

Section 11 details the need to obtain permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering the land for the purpose of recreational or sport fishing

Section 12 describes safety aspects related to fishing