

# Protect

## NATIVE WILDLIFE:

### Responsible Fishing & Rubbish Disposal Along Coasts & Waterways



- WIRES frequently rescues **animals entangled** in fishing line and other discarded ropes, fishing nets and strings.
- Common rescues also include animals that have ingested other debris such as **discarded hooks**, which result in significant internal and external injuries.
- **Fishing gear accounts for 10% of all marine litter and is the most environmentally damaging type of plastic pollution.**
- Over 90% of seabirds have plastic in their stomachs.
- 56% of marine mammals have ingested plastic.
- Plastic digestion and fishing debris entanglements pose **significant risks to the future of vulnerable and threatened species** such as the Green Turtle and Loggerhead Turtle.

### Champion responsible fishing practices to safeguard wildlife.

- ✓ Consider using biodegradable sinkers.
- ✓ Dispose of rubbish and fishing line safely to prevent harm and entanglement of wildlife and foraging birds; leave no trace.
- ✓ Roll up unwanted fishing line and cut into small lengths before disposal.
- ✗ Never leave fishing line unattended to prevent animal entanglement.
- ✓ Be cautious when handling fishing line hooks to avoid wildlife injuries.
- ✓ Pick up any trash you see, even if not yours, to preserve our waterways and protect surrounding wildlife.

### Wildlife protection starts with you: recycle and reuse wherever possible.

If you see an animal that appears entangled, injured, or unwell, please call WIRES for advice and assistance **1300 094 737**.

**Never attempt to remove fishing line or a hook coming out of an animal's mouth.** Call WIRES for assistance as this should be done by a trained veterinarian.

