

# Fowler to critics: I've the experience to coach in A-League



**New Brisbane Roar head coach Robbie Fowler says he's not an inexperienced head coach in the A-League, as some are suggesting.**

**Fowler was** unveiled in front of the media this morning on the Gold Coast as the new head coach of Brisbane Roar. **The Liverpool** legend and England international has agreed to a two-year contract from season 2019 with the former A-League powerhouse. **And the** EPL great was quick to shoot down those who say he lacks experience in the dugout. **He said** his high-level coaching badges and experience at the Liverpool academy suggest he's ready for the role. **"I've worked** hard getting all my badges, obviously I'm qualified as a pro license, so to quash all the inexperience rumours," the 44-year-old told media. **"I'm experienced** in terms of getting the coaching hours in. I've worked really hard and this is where I want to be. **"Some will** moan about this and that... I'm here to do a good job. **"I know** which players I want to bring in," he added. "I've spoken to a few players." **While no** names were mentioned, Fowler's name and contacts will mean he'll potentially bring in quality from Australia and abroad.

**Though on** the coaching front, Fowler will bring in Tony Grant, a successful former Blackburn Rovers youth team coach, as an assistant. **"I want** to bring players in who are committed. Players who are tactically very good and technically good. **"And at** a club with a salary cap [league] it's maybe not as easy as people think," he added. **The 44-year** old holds the UEFA Pro Licence and has won the FA Cup, UEFA Cup, and UEFA Super Cup as a player. **Over the** past seven years, Brisbane's new head coach has been coaching at Liverpool FC's renowned Academy program. **And he** says he admired the way Brisbane played their football during the glory years from 2011-2014 when they won three championships in style. **Fowler says** he wants to bring that panache and success back to the club with players who are committed to the cause. **The three-time** title-winning club is second last on the league ladder, and as such miss out on Finals football in May. **"I've been** in football a long time. And this is my first big, big role. **"It's unfortunate** a club the size of Brisbane to be having



such a tough time," Fowler added. **Fowler played** two seasons with North Queensland Fury and Perth Glory around a decade ago. **So he'll** lean on that experience too as he plots Roar's revival. **"I had** two good years here [as a player]. My family enjoyed it and people said I was here for a jolly up but I worked really hard. **"And I** went home and never stopped watching the A-League. **"And it's** a country I've always loved." **Interim coach** Darren Davies will remain at the helm for Roar's final match of the regular league season against Adelaide United on Anzac Day.

## STAJCIC: PULL TOGETHER TO MAKE CENTRAL COAST GREAT AGAIN

**Mariners caretaker boss Alen Stajcic can see a brighter future on the sunny Central Coast if the whole community and club pull together.**

**The bottom-placed** Mariners are confirmed as the wooden spoon club for this season after a disastrous spell under sacked coach Mike Mulvey.

**But the** Gosford outfit plays their final game of the season this Friday with a dash of momentum behind them.

**Stajcic's men** dominated an in-form Western Sydney Wanderers last time out and Stajcic believes this could be the platform for a much larger momentum shift going into the off-season.

**But the** club needs to bring the Coast together, he says, just like the glory years of 2012/13.

**"Everyone wants** to be associated with a successful team and a team that gives the fans hope," he said on Wednesday.



**"I hope** it [the 3-1 win over Wanderers] gives the fans encouragement that we're heading down the right path."

**Mariners skipper** Matt Simon netted from a free-kick and a set-piece either side of half-time before Kye Rowles headed in his first

A-League goal, only to be red-carded in the 71st minute.

**"It was** the first game since I've been here where we dominated from start to finish.

**"Encouraging signs** for me and hopefully

for the community and they'll follow us in greater numbers.

**"It's the** whole package, from sponsorship to the crowds, to the playing group and the whole staff at the club we need all pulling together if we're going to be a successful regional club.

**"As we** move into the off-season we really get everyone's support from every part of the Central Coast community to build a really strong foundation for next year.

**"All the** different parts are really important and the 5000 fans we had [against Wanderers] was good given the circumstances around the club and hopefully we can build on that."

**The Mariners** will take on Melbourne City on Friday night with centreback Rowles serving the first of a three-game suspension.