

Travis Dowling
CEO
Victorian Fisheries Authority
By email: Travis.Dowling@vfa.vic.gov.au

Dear Travis,

REMOVAL OF SALMONID CLOSED SEASON FOR MT EMU CREEK AND MOYNE RIVER

VRFish writes to you seeking your commitment to remove the salmonid closed season in Mt Emu Creek and Moyne Rivers.

As you would be aware, the initial proposal to remove the salmonid closed season in a number of south-west rivers, including Mt Emu, Moyne, Merri and Hopkins Rivers, arose through VRFish consultation. The initial proposal received a high level of support from the VFA and key stakeholders on the basis that these rivers support put and take fisheries with little to no natural recruitment, and that the closed season was not warranted on sustainability grounds.

VRFish has received a great deal of positive feedback on the maintaining a year-round salmonid fishery in the Merri and Hopkins Rivers. The removal of the closed season in these two waterways has resulted in a number of positive flow-on benefits to surrounding communities in socio-economic terms, has provided enhanced fishing alternatives during a time of the year when other fishing opportunities are constrained, and has ultimately supported the Government's commitment to get more people fishing, more often under Target One Million.

On this basis, VRFish would like to better understand the VFA's rationale for rejecting Mt Emu and Moyne Rivers from the original VRFish proposal. Lacking reasonable grounds for their exclusion, VRFish seeks your commitment to remove the closed season in Mt Emu and Moyne Rivers and to have these two waterways included on the 2019 trout fisheries notice.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Loats
Chair
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body
18 October 2018

**Let's make fishing
better, for everyone.**