



VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL
FISHING PEAK BODY

1. RESTORE FISH HABITAT

Making Fishing Better Through Better Habitat

As part of VRFish's 8 point plan to make fishing better for everyone, we are calling for the investment of \$30 million over 4 years into a habitat fund for on-ground fish habitat action benefiting our marine, estuarine and freshwater fisheries, including:

- living shellfish reefs, riparian vegetation, in-stream habitat, water quality improvements, fish passage barrier removal, fish screens and pumps, and;
- building capacity of our recreational fishing sector to lead, and participate in, fish habitat activities.

Indicative projects and areas for investment:

- \$4 million for a Fish Habitat Community Grants Program
- \$6.2 million for a 200,000 square metre extension of living shellfish reef in Port Phillip Bay
- \$5 million for Gippsland Lakes "Habitat for Fish" Recovery Project
- \$2 million for seagrass restoration and protection in Westernport, Corner Inlet, PPB and Hopkins River Estuary
- \$750K for sedimentation reduction in Westernport's north-east streams
- \$640K Future-proofing our wild trout fishery through habitat i.e. Mitta Mitta, Rubicon, Steavenson, Nariel, Goulburn, Ovens, King, Jamieson, Buckland River, Gippsland (Traralgon, Morwell), Otways etc.
- \$1.5 million for statewide re-snagging project for native fish (Gunbower, Little Murray, Goulburn, ovens, Loddon, Campaspe etc)
- \$450K for a VRFish-based Fish Habitat Officer
- \$4.5 million for a fishway at Koondarook and \$2 million for other priority barrier removals or fishways
- \$300K for Showcasing pump screens
- \$300K for Restoring Our South West Coastal Rivers (Curdies, Barwon, Merri)
- \$200k for Boosting Blackfish (Gellibrand and Tarwin Rivers)
- \$150K for Horsham Weir Pool and Timboola Weir Pool In-stream habitat and fish havens
- \$2 million for 2 irrigation screens to prevent the loss of native fish