

# GETTING MORE VICTORIANS FISHING

## TARGET ONE MILLION PHASE 2

The State Government has extended its commitment to recreational fishers in Victoria, building on its plan grow participation to one million anglers by 2020.

To get more Victorians fishing, more often, the renewed plan will:

- Invest over \$27 million on recreational fishing initiatives across the state
- Construct a new \$7 million native fish hatchery in Shepparton focussed on warm water species such as Murray cod and golden perch
- Grow fish stocking to 10 million fish per year by 2022
- Put more native fish, including 'ready-to-be-caught' Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch, into suburban lakes, including Rowville, Lillydale, Karkarook, Casey Fields, Navan Park, Roxburgh and Melton
- Stock Eastern King Prawns into Lake Tyers
- Give the Gippsland Lakes back to recreational anglers, boost local tourism, hold events with local community and create jobs by phasing out commercial fishing in the lakes over 4 years through compulsory buyout of the remaining licences and a implementing a sliding catch cap
- Invest into science and habitat restoration in the Gippsland lakes to ensure the environment remains healthy for all
- Invest \$1.5 million for a new on-water café on Bullock Island in partnership with the Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-Operative Society

- Improve access for fishing and camping by opening up hundreds of kilometres of crown land river frontages covered by grazing licenses. Legislate to provide recreational fishing access and camping in these areas
- Invest \$200,000 to develop a recreational fishing tourism plan with a focus on events and marketing regions and towns with specific species
- Invest \$600,000 on top of the fishing trust funds on fish cleaning tables and platform construction around Port Phillip Bay and Corio Bay
- Allow anglers to use small craft such as kayaks and boats with electric motors on specified lakes and reservoirs including Tullaroop, Lauriston, Hepburn, Barkers Creek, Upper Coliban and Malmsbury reservoirs, with later consideration to be given to including Tarago and Devilbend
- Introduce a new *Fishing for All* program to get more people into fishing, including investing a further \$200,000 in the highly successful *Vic Fish Kids* program
- Offer number plates for recreational fishers
- Advocate protection of Southern Bluefin Tuna from cuts to bag limits by the Commonwealth
- Improving fish habitat in Port Phillip Bay by investing \$2.5 million into projects for reef development

## **Boating commitments**

- Abolish all boat ramp parking and launching fees at Victorian boat ramps
- Fix boat ramps
- Make sure that every cent of licencing and registration fees is spent on improving boating safety and facilities.
- Provide eight new casual berths across Port Phillip Bay that are accessible to the public
- Review the management of boating infrastructure in PPB and Westernport
- Establish a dedicated boating infrastructure authority
- Establish a *Better Boating Fund* to get to work immediately on urgent boat ramp upgrades across the state<sup>3</sup>.
  - Boat ramp upgrades including immediate upgrades at Mordialloc, Queenscliff, Point Richards, Hastings and Rhyll
  - Undertake critical jetty maintenance at Cowes Jetty.