

Travis Dowling  
Victorian Fisheries Authority  
By email: [travis.dowling@vfa.gov.au](mailto:travis.dowling@vfa.gov.au)

Dear Travis,

### **INVESTIGATION INTO LAKE BULLEN MERRI FISH STOCKS**

We write to you to convey recreational fishers' concerns with fish stocks in Lake Bullen Merri and the need for an independent-fishery survey to understand the gravity of the current situation.

VRFish has received feedback from anglers fishing Lake Bullen Merri following the fish kill around 1 April 2019. Over the last 6 months, for example, the Camperdown Angling Club has had 170 anglers stay at their clubrooms, four club competitions conducted, and its members have surveyed both bank and shore anglers. During that time the recorded catch has been zero. Additionally, fishing clubs are cancelling their bookings at the Lake and there is growing perception that there are "no fish" in the lake.

Lake Bullen Merri is highly valued fishery and has been performing extremely well prior to the fish kill. With no ongoing fisheries monitoring programs, anglers are trying to make sense of the current situation and the impact of the fish kill earlier in the year. We believe there is compelling evidence and an expectation from recreational fishers who regularly fish the lake that an independent-fishery survey needs to be conducted. With a greater understanding future evidence-based management interventions or additional stocking programs can be implemented if required.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Loats  
Chair  
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

30 September 2019

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