18 DECEMBER 2019

SECURING VICTORIA'S NATIVE FISH PRODUCTION

VRFish, the peak body representing the interests of Victoria's 838,000 recreational fishers, congratulates the Andrews Labor Government on purchasing a site for the new native fish hatchery south of Shepparton.

VRFish Chairman, Mr. Rob Loats said, "This is a significant milestone for the project and the site at Arcadia is an ideal location for the native fish hatchery, with the necessary water supplies and correct soil and clay to build ponds."

Last year, VRFish successfully advocated for a purpose-built native fish hatchery in Northern Victoria to boost our freshwater fisheries stocking program and assist in the recovery of our threatened fish species.

"A new purpose-built native fish hatchery will ensure Victoria will soon no longer have to rely on New South Wales commercial hatcheries to keep up with record fish stocking and the creation of amazing inland fishing opportunities."

The native fish hatchery will focus on breeding native fish species such as Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch. The completion of the hatchery is expected by the end of 2021.

"The new hatchery will be a win for all freshwater fishers through allowing the Snobs Creek Hatchery to focus on salmonids, trout and cold-water native fish such as Macquarie perch and trout cod."

"It's never been a better time to be a recreational fisher in Victoria with outstanding support by Minister for Fishing and Boating, Jaala Pulford and the Victorian Government."

The native fish hatchery is a key commitment from the State Government's *Target One Million* program to get more people fishing more often. The program also committed to increasing fish stocking to 10-million fish annually by 2022.

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