

Hon. Jaala Pulford MLC  
Minister for Fishing and Boating  
By email: [jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

## LAUNCHING WAY BOAT RAMP MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

VRFish, the peak body for recreational fishing in Victoria, is writing to express our concerns upon learning the boating facility management contract at Launching Way has been terminated by Melbourne Water and will not be renewed. We ask for assurances there is a plan in place to maintain expected service levels for our recreational fishers.

The Launching Way boating facility is Australia's largest boating facility. At peak times, it is not unusual to have over 600 boats use the site in a day with activity spanning all hours of the day and night. The 2019 RACV Marine 'Rate Your Ramp' survey, confirmed Launching Way is rated as Victoria's best boat ramp by users. The underlying reason for the facility's success is due to service levels provided through the boating facility manager.

It is our understanding the current operator's contract has been terminated from March 2020. In our view this contract needs to be renewed for another term while the Victorian Government conducts its review and reforms of current management arrangements of boating facilities across Port Phillip Bay and Westernport. It is not appropriate to alter or reduce the quality of service at this facility until long-term arrangements are formally decided upon.

Any change will risk the effective operation of the facility for our fishers and generate high levels of criticism towards Government, who are actively implementing significant reforms and election commitments for fishers and boaters with the full support of VRFish.

Victoria's recreational fishers need assurances that Melbourne Water will commit to a manned operator so as to maintain expected service levels and boating experience at Victoria's busiest boating facility.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Loats  
Chair  
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

23 January 2019

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