

Hon. Jaala Pulford
Minister for Fishing and Boating
By email: jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES – RESUMPTION OF FISHING AND BOATING IN VICTORIA

Dear Minister,

We are writing to follow-up to our correspondence dated April 20th in regards to easing Victoria's fishing and boating Stage 3 Covid-19 restrictions. We commend the Victorian Government and the community for a very successful outcome to date of 'flattening of the curve' that enables the opportunity to consider easing restrictions.

Heading into the 6th week of fishing and boating restrictions, some recreational fishers are becoming increasingly frustrated and are asking VRFish what is the 'roadmap' or pathway to enable the resumption of fishing. Some fishers are asking VRFish to campaign even stronger on the issue. Adding to the frustration is Victoria's divergent response to fishing compared to other States, which have eased their restrictions even further over the weekend.

We note that the National Cabinet met on May 1 and endorsed the *National Principles for Sport and Recreational Activities*. We are extremely pleased that these principles list fishing, and recommend that the initial phase of a staged return of community sport and recreational activities involves small groups and non-contact activity – all conditions that fishing can easily achieve. The Principles state that international evidence to date suggests that outdoor activities are a lower risk setting for COVID-19 transmission.

The Principles indicate that it will be the responsibility of the states and territories for sport and recreation activity resumption decisions. As communicated previously, we believe there are a range of measures that our sector could employ, if required, to mitigate any risk and concerns from the Chief Health Officer. As the peak body for recreational fishing we are encouraging discussion on this matter and the opportunity put forward solutions through our proactive representation.

We are proud of how Victorian recreational fishers have conducted themselves in a responsible manner by adhering to restrictions and advice. We have full confidence our sector will embrace a safe and responsible format to fishing and boating and continue to play their part.

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

VRFish is seeking to play a pro-active and responsible role throughout all phases of the Victorian and Federal Government's ongoing response to Covid-19.

Can you confirm if the Victorian Government are planning to ease fishing and boating restrictions following National Cabinet endorsement of the *National Principles for Sport and Recreation Activities* and/or in line with the likely easing of the first phase of baseline restrictions at National Cabinet meeting on Friday 8 May?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Loats', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Loats
Chairperson
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

4 May 2020