



Media Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH - VICTORIA'S
RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

09 JULY 2020

VIC FISHERS LEFT SNAGGED WITH BORDER CLOSURE

VRFish, the peak body for recreational fishing in Victoria, is calling on the NSW Government to take a common-sense approach to fishing and boating on Murray River in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic border restrictions.

VRFish Chairman Mr. Rob Loats said, "Fishing on the Murray River is part of the way of life for Victorian anglers in our interconnected border communities."

"We implore the NSW Government to treat the length of the Murray River as a coterminous river border with Victoria for the purpose of the public health order."

"Our local Victorian anglers just want to cast a line and launch their boat on the Murray River as part of their usual recreation and exercise activities and have absolutely no interest in stepping onto NSW soil."

"We need to take a leaf out of how other jurisdictions who share a river border and enable both their communities to recreate on the river, such as Canada and USA, rather than reverting back to the thinking of the 1800's."

"What we are advocating for is a similar arrangement for the Murray River where Victorian's can fish and launch boats from the Victorian side, but are not permitted to land on the NSW side, must not interact with any other water users and must return back to the Victorian side at the completion of their trip."

"Recreational fishers have demonstrated their ability to follow the rules and apply covid-safe behaviours and practices."

"The risk of having an angler in tinny casting for Murray cod pales into insignificance with tens of thousands border crossings daily by road, more than 50 land crossings and hundreds of kilometres of land and river border with NSW."

"Surely there are more pressing issues right now than closing recreational boat ramps on the Victorian side of the Murray River?"

VRFish continues to push for fishing reforms for the Murray River and removal of red tape by advocating for reciprocal recreational fishing licensing arrangements between Victoria and NSW.

Media Contact: (03) 5221 1104



Media Contact:
(03) 5221 1104 info@vrfish.com.au



PO Box 4574 GEELONG VIC 3220
t: (03) 5221 1104 e: info@vrfish.com.au w: www.vrfish.com.au
ABN 47 068 111 624

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