

Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP  
Premier of NSW  
By email: [willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au), and online

Dear Premier,

**RE: BORDER CLOSURE - COMMONSENSE APPROACH TO FISHING AND BOATING ON THE MURRAY RIVER**

VRFish, is the peak body for recreational fishing in Victoria, and we are writing to you to 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.

Fishing on the Murray River is part of the way of life for Victorian anglers in our interconnected border communities.

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;
- 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. VRFish is fully committed to support our constituents to play their part as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In our view 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. Equally, we believe there are more pressing issues right now than closing recreational boat ramps on the Victorian side of the Murray River.

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

VRFish calls on you and your 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. The solution we have outlined since the border closure was announced is a common-sense and practical solution during these uncertain times,

Yours sincerely,

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

Rob Loats  
Chair  
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

9 July 2020