



Media Release

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

2 SEPTEMBER 2020

CLEAR PATH FOR RIVERBANK FISHING AND CAMPING

VRFish, the peak body representing Victorian recreational fishers, is backing the Victorian Government's commitment to guarantee access to fishing and camping on Crown land that have grazing licences and river frontage.

VRFish Chairperson, Mr. Rob Loats, said "Victorian recreational fishers are excited at the prospect of fishing and camping along more of our rivers and streams and are eagerly awaiting the passing of the Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 by the Legislative Council."

"Regaining community access to our rivers and streams will be a gamechanger for inland fishing across Victoria, from targeting our much-loved brown and rainbow trout to our iconic Murray cod."

"Fishers have been missing out on the enjoyment of fishing along hundreds of kilometres of our rivers because of a systemic misunderstanding of public access requirements."

Confusion surrounding mandated and existing public access to these frontages for recreational purposes is set to be resolved through a Government initiative led by the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

"Some landholders have incorrectly assumed these tracts of land is theirs and prevented public access by erecting fences, installing no access signs and padlocks."

"Recreational fishers want diverse experiences that immerse them in nature to relax and unwind."

"We can't think of a better setting for Victorian families than alongside our amazing rivers and streams with a future opportunity of camping and cooking a fresh meal on a campfire."

The Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 seeks to amend the *Land Act 1958* to allow camping and campfires on licensed Crown Water Frontages - the small strip of public land either side of Victoria's rivers and major streams.

Fishers can raise their concerns about access to our rivers to VRFish via yoursay@vrfish.com.au



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