

Hon. Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Fishing and Boating
By email: melissa.horne@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister,

RE: MARIBYRNONG RIVER BOAT RAMP

I am writing to you to request the Maribyrnong River Boat Ramp project announced on July 30, 2018 is given the highest priority by the Victorian Government for completion.

A boat ramp on the Maribyrnong River is eagerly anticipated by our members and metropolitan-based anglers. The announcement of the boat ramp was an outstanding result of strong grassroots advocacy led by our VRFish members at the Metropolitan Anglers Association and Essendon Angling Club. The lack of visible progress after 2 years is a concern but can be corrected.

The Maribyrnong River Boat Ramp has the potential to be a landmark boating infrastructure project. When completed, we believe will be emblematic of the Andrew's Government *Better Boating* commitments. Also, the boat ramp is associated with the Native Fish Revival project led by the Victorian Fisheries Authority, which has seen estuary perch stocked since 2018 and new fish habitat structures planned. Fishers will be seeking to enjoy catching these fish in the future and receive value from the investment of their RFL fees.

The Maribyrnong River has long been considered Melbourne's forgotten waterway despite offering fantastic and improving fishing opportunities. Currently, the river has no boating infrastructure which is why this project is so strategically important. Boat-based fishers seeking to target estuarine fish, such as black bream and mulloway, are forced to launch and retrieve their vessel in Port Phillip Bay at the 'The Warmies'.

The project has enormous support from recreational fishers and on completion will be highly applauded.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Loats
Chair
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

21 August 2020

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