

13 October 2020

Hon. Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier  
By email: [daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Premier Andrews,

**RE: RETURN OF RECREATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING FOR MELBOURNE**

I am writing on behalf of VRFish, the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body which represents the interests of 838,000 recreational fishers in Victoria.

**We call on you to immediately return recreational fishing and boating for all Melburnians and guarantee access to our iconic snapper season in Port Phillip Bay and Westernport.**

In both Australia and overseas, recreational fishing and boating has been proven a Covid-safe outdoor activity.

The health, wellbeing and social connection benefits for Melbourne's recreational fishers must now be a priority over the extremely low risk of virus transmission during safe recreational fishing and boating activity.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has deemed recreational fishing and boating for exercise as a safe reason to leave home, however the current 5km area restriction has created an unfair and depressing situation for the majority of recreational fishers who reside more than 5km from their nearest recreational fishery or boat launching facility.

Recreational fishers of Melbourne have sacrificed their chosen lifestyle, recreation and wellbeing to support the fight against Covid-19. A full return to recreational fishing and boating in Melbourne is immediately required to remedy observed and declining health and wellbeing outcomes.

VRFish stands ready to assist the Victorian Government in providing advice, as well as supporting recreational fishers and boaters to continue to undertake a Covid-safe outdoor activity.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Loats  
Chair  
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

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