

The Hon. Lisa Neville
Minister for Water

Level 17, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

By email: lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister Neville,

Re: *Improved Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Recreational Water delivery*

The VRFish Board and members wish to bring to your attention an unacceptable situation that must be remedied per the previously agreed Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Business Case. That is, the improved security of recreational water supply and delivery to ten Wimmera Mallee recreational lakes.

The business case clearly articulated an agreed stakeholder position prior to funding of the Pipeline Project, that delivery of recreational water (security of supply) would be equal to stock and domestic allocation. Importantly, the pipeline capacity design was engineered to deliver high security of supply recreational water to these communities.

For the past six years the Board of Wimmera Mallee Water have to their credit, supported the delivery of recreational water within supply allocations. This is no longer the situation, as all Growth Water is fully allocated and especially as mining companies commence production.

Wimmera Mallee communities now face the situation that environmental water has a 43% allocation, and most alarming to the regional communities of the Wimmera Mallee Region, recreational water has no water allocation. This is an unacceptable situation to the many Victorians that rely on these lakes for recreation, social inclusion and health and wellbeing.

Modelling of the impacts to remedy this current situation by reprioritising the originally agreed position delivers a 1% impact across all water entitlement holders.

Further, we wish to bring to your attention that current water users pay a levy for recreational water delivery. It should also be noted the Victorian Fisheries Authority and recreational fishing licence holders invest funds to stock recreational fish species in all ten Wimmera Mallee pipeline lakes.

In the interests of Wimmera Mallee communities, we now request you remedy this situation as a matter of urgency.

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

Many thanks for your positive consideration and in the interim we look forward to a positive response.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Robert Loats

Chairperson

Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

23rd September 2021

Cc The Hon Melissa Horne Minister for Fishing and Boating