



**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Outdoor Recreation

**Outdoor Recreation Portfolio**

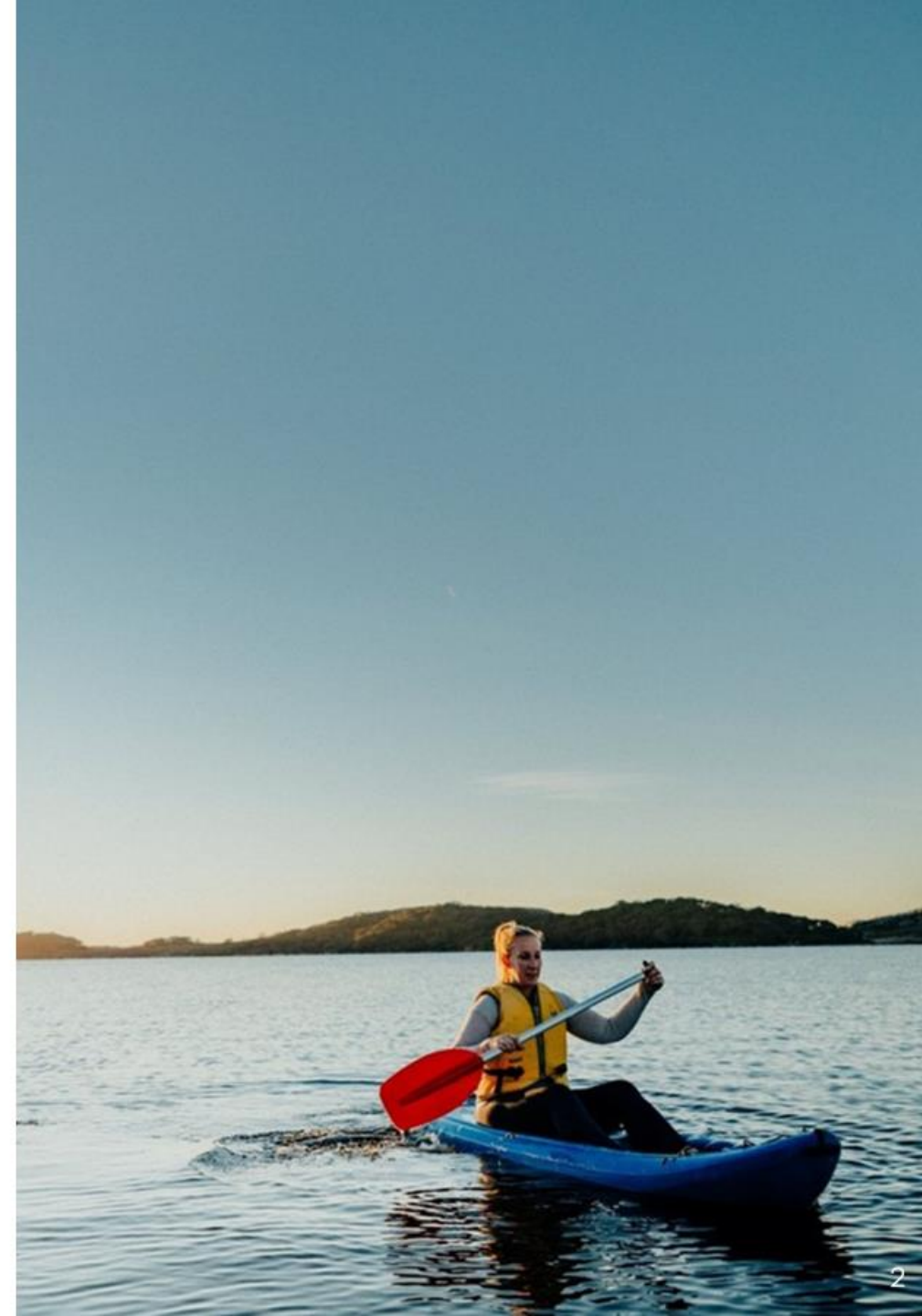
**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
Inquiry into the 2025/26 Budget Estimates**

10 June 2025

# State of the Portfolio

## Outdoor Recreation significantly benefits Victorians, visitors to the state and our economy

- Recreational fishing, boating, and game hunting make a significant contribution to the Victorian economy, supporting thousands of jobs across the state, particularly in regional Victoria.
- Consumers spend over **\$7 billion** annually on nature-based outdoor activities in Victoria, according to historical estimates.
- These activities contribute an estimated **\$720 million** annually to our economy through broader wellbeing benefits and avoided healthcare costs.
- Thanks to our continued focus on outdoor recreation, more Victorians and visitors to our state are able to experience and enjoy time in nature.





# Our Achievements

## Recreational Boating and Fishing

- ➔ Continued to deliver on our commitments under the **\$96 million** Go Fishing and Boating Plan, including:
  - ➔ delivering 95,000 fishing kits to grade 5 students through the Little Angler Program
  - ➔ committing **\$15 million** to expand the Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatcheries
  - ➔ awarding grants through the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program
- ➔ Reinvested more than **\$100 million** of boater's licence and registration fees through the Better Boating Fund since 2021, including completing over 50 boating infrastructure and facility upgrades to date.
- ➔ Exceeded Victoria's fish stocking targets by over 15%, or more than 1.5 million extra fish in 2024.
- ➔ Victorian Fisheries Authority led or supported 33 events with approximately 35,000 attendees across 2024-25.







# Our Achievements

## Game Hunting

- ➔ Progressed implementation of government's response to the Select Committee Inquiry into native bird hunting recommendations, including:
  - ➔ approving the Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan in January 2025
  - ➔ applying the Adaptive Harvest Management process for the first time to the 2025 duck season
  - ➔ prohibiting the use of lead ammunition for the hunting of Stubble Quail from 2025
- ➔ Remade the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2024.
- ➔ In 2023-24, the Game Management Authority presented at 14 industry education events, ran 7 Balloted Hog Deer education sessions and held 6 practical introduction sessions to new license holders for both deer and duck hunting.





## Budget Initiatives

### Go Fishing Victoria

- **\$5.2 million** over 1 year to continue to meet the Government's commitment to stock **10 million fish** in Victoria's waterways each year and to operate the expanded Arcadia and Snobs Creek hatcheries.

### Kangaroo Harvesting Program

- **\$2.2 million** over 2 years to continue the Kangaroo Harvesting Program to support the management of kangaroos.