



The Hon. Ros Spence MP

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers

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Robert McDonald  
Clerk of the Legislative Council  
Legislative Council  
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Dear Mr McDonald

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 2024, regarding a petition presented to the Legislative Council by Melina Bath MP, Member for Eastern Victoria Region. The petition requested the Legislative Council to call on the Government to commit to exempting fishing competitions in the animal care and protection legislation.

I can confirm that the Animal Care and Protection Bill will not put a stop to fishing competitions in any shape or form.

As my colleague the Minister for Outdoor Recreation can attest, the Allan Labor Government celebrates the role recreational fishing plays in our society, not least in supporting tourism, wellbeing and economic growth in our regions.

The draft Animal Care and Protection Bill was released for public feedback from 15 December 2023 to 25 March 2024 to provide stakeholders, including recreational fishers, the opportunity to have their say on any unintended consequences or gaps in the new laws.

Feedback is informing the finalisation of the Animal Care and Protection Bill to ensure it is clear recreational fishing competitions can continue in the same way they currently do.

Anyone who follows the requirements set out in Victoria's *Fisheries Act 1995*, or relevant regulations and guidance, will be able to continue these activities under the draft Bill, just as they have been doing under the current *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*.

Thank you again for writing to me. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Agriculture

18/9/2024