



Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

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East Melbourne, Victoria 8002 Australia

Ref: CMIN-2-25-27024

Mr Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr McDonald
Cc Hon Gayle Tierney MLC, Minister for Skills and TAFE

Thank you for your letter on 14 August 2025 regarding petition no. 664 tabled in the Legislative Council.

Since 2014, the Victorian Government has invested \$177 million into making Victoria's fisheries the best in Australia, which includes:

- Establishing Australia's only dedicated fisheries authority, with a mandate to grow fishing in Victoria.
- Making public boat ramps in Victoria free.
- We have removed the 700-ton annual commercial fishery which means there are 700 tons more fish in the bay every year. In addition, we know recreational fishers do the right thing with over 90% compliance with our fishing bag and size limits
- Stocking 10 million fish into Victoria's waterways each year, more than every state and territory in Australia combined.
- Having invested in over 100 boating improvement projects including major boat ramp upgrades at Mahers Landing, Cowes, Rhyll, Lake Boga, Loch Sport, Echuca, Mildura, and Torquay.
- Providing 95,000 free fishing rods to Victorian primary school students.
- Allocating \$1.6m to Victoria's 330 angling clubs to help the clubs modernise and attract new members; and
- Providing \$2.5m towards habitat grants and improving our river health.

We now have over 1 million Victorians fishing every year and our fisheries are the envy of Australia.

The VFA completed a comprehensive consultation process with staff, and the final structure was announced to staff on 20 May 2025 and is now operational.

The restructuring reflects a modern, efficient fishery, maintains sustainability, and delivers required government savings.

The new structure improves the VFA operating model so it can efficiently and effectively address the modern fisheries management environments:

- The Statewide Investigations Group has been relaunched as the Major Fisheries Crime Unit, now with enhanced focus and additional resources.
- Across the board, the VFA continues to maintain fisheries at record levels, ensuring that all species are harvested sustainably.
- It retains Fisheries Officer positions across Victoria, including around Port Philip Bay and Western Port.
- It retains strong science capability for the management of the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.
- It retains the fish breeding and stocking program including for recreational and endangered species.
- The 13FISH reporting line remains operational to call if people see anyone doing the wrong thing

Yours sincerely



Steve Dimopoulos MP
Member for Oakleigh
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

Cc Hon Gayle Tierney MLC, Minister for Skills and TAFE