



Media Release

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FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH – VICTORIAS' RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

VRFISH PRESENTS....

Earlier today the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish) presented its position paper to the Port Phillip Bay Channel Deepening Project (CDP) Inquiry.

Chairman, Bob Pearce and Board Member, Doug Evers-Buckland presented to the public hearing its concerns about the CDP.

Bob Pearce said “VRFish has given its best shot at expressing the concerns of Victoria’s recreational fishers and outlined some of the likely adverse impacts to our Bay’s ecology”.

Key points outlined in the VRFish position paper, were the concerns about dumping of the toxic spoil; the potential damage to the delicate ecology at Port Phillip Heads and the unknown impacts to fish stocks and forms of marine life; the probable spread of undesirable exotic pests, such as northern pacific seastars, and also, the threat to snapper breeding.

Bob expressed that “the CDP may well prove to be a poor investment. Potential investment upside is stated as being only \$2.2 Billion over 28 years. Potential investment downside is serious damage to the bay and consequential damage to small businesses all over Melbourne. Recreational fishing and boating contributes approximately \$1Billion per annum to the Victorian economy,” he said.

A full copy of VRFish’s Position Paper is available at www.vrfish.com.au

If the Victorian Government decides to go ahead with the CDP, VRFish has stated that they wish to be fully consulted through all stages of the Project to ensure that impacts to recreational fishing are minimised.

VRFish looks forward to a favourable outcome from the Inquiry.

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