



Media Release

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FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH – VICTORIA’S RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

NEW RECREATIONAL FISHERY FOR THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA..

Recreational Fishers are ecstatic at the recent announcement by the Bracks Government to allow recreational fishing at Devilbend Reservoir...

Late last week the Minister for Environment John Thwaites and Member for Hastings Rosy Buchanan announced the Devilbend Reservoir site will be retained in public ownership to form a new Park. The new Devilbend Park will be more than 1000 hectares making it one of the largest on the Mornington Peninsula. The site will become a natural features reserve under the *Crown Land Reserves ACT 1978* which allows such recreational activities as fishing, horse riding and boating.

Recreational Fishers are ecstatic with the news that the Park, which contains Devilbend and Bittern Reservoirs, can now be progressed into recreational fisheries for all to enjoy. David Kramer, Executive Officer VRFish, Victoria’s Recreational Fishing peak body, said “This is a magnificent outcome for all Victorians, particularly those that live or visit the Mornington Peninsula. Recreational Fishing is estimated to contribute almost \$400 million to the Victorian economy and more than 550,000 Victorians participate in this great family activity”.

Merv McGuire, CEO of the Rex Hunt Futurefish Foundation says “The Foundation welcomes this announcement by the Bracks Government. We have been constantly monitoring the Devilbend development, the decision has been a long time coming but well and truly worth waiting for”. McGuire went onto to say “this great result would not have happened without the enormous effort by Tom Camp, committee member of the Mornington Peninsula Fly Fishers. Tom has been an active member of the reference group and working party for Devilbend, representing recreational fishers. Tom has relentlessly rallied authorities to make them understand that recreational fishing in these Reservoirs will not be detrimental to this conservation-focussed Park and will in fact be a very popular activity in the Park with high participation levels by Victorian families”.

VRFish and the Rex Hunt Futurefish Foundation will be assisting Mornington Peninsula Fly Fishers to recruit organisations such as the Australian Trout Foundation, Fisheries Victoria and Parks Victoria, to be

involved in the setting up of the recreational fishery. Funding will be sought through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program, to establish access and build infrastructure that will support recreational fishing in an environmentally friendly way so as to not disrupt other activities such as walking, cycling and picnicking in the Park. Funding will also be sought to initially stock the water with mature size trout, so the fishery is ready to go from day one after stocking for Victorians to catch a good feed or just catch and release a nice fish. Ongoing stocking of the waters will then become part of the annual stocking program by Fisheries Victoria, which is supplementary funded by the recreational fishing licence revenue.

At a meeting this week between the recreational fishing organisations and Parks Victoria, Stuart Ord Parks Victoria's Regional Manager City and Bays said "Parks Victoria looks forward to establishing this new park in association with community groups including VRFish and Future Fish Foundation. Once the land is transferred to Parks Victoria, we will be commencing a management planning process to build on the great work already done by all the community forums to date, and to set the final directions for the wide range of proposed recreation and conservation activities which will be accommodated on the site. "

VRFish – Victoria's Recreational Fishing Peak Body

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